

# Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 28 July 2017

10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,  
Taunton



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Cllr L Redman (Chairman), Cllr M Pullin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Bown, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr J Lock, Cllr N Taylor, Cllr J Williams, Richard Berry, Helen Fenn, Ruth Hobbs and Eilleen Tipper

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 20 July 2017

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or [ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk)

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)



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# AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Friday 28 July 2017

**\*\* Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe \*\***

**1 Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

**2 Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils will be displayed in the meeting room. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Community Governance team.

**3 Minutes from the last meeting (Pages 7 - 12)**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

**4 Public Question Time**

The Chairman will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chairman's discretion.**

**5 Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 13 - 28)**

To discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:

- a) – The Cabinet's latest published forward plan;
- b) – Current Work Programme for the Committee;
- c) – Outcome Tracker.

**6 Children and Young People's Plan update reports (Pages 29 - 80)**

To consider these reports providing information on progress of the 7 improvement programmes.

**7 Children and Young People's Plan - Member Champions (Pages 81 - 86)**

To consider this report on the Chairman's suggestion that each Member of the Committee volunteer to act as a 'champion' for each of the 7 improvement programmes.

**8 Family Hubs (Pages 87 - 100)**

To consider a report and receive an overview of Family Hubs.

**9 Fostering Recruitment Activity (Pages 101 - 120)**

To consider this report.

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Friday 28 July 2017

10 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

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## Guidance notes for the meeting

### 1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting – Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or email: [ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk)  
They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

### 2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the Minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

### 4. Public Question Time

**If you wish to speak, please tell the Committee's Administrator by 12 noon the (working) day before the meeting.**

At the Chairman's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chairman. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chairman will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, normally to two minutes only.

5. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

6. **Committee Rooms & Council Chamber and hearing aid users**

To assist hearing aid users the following Committee meeting rooms have infra-red audio transmission systems (Luttrell room, Wyndham room, Hobhouse room). To use this facility we need to provide a small personal receiver that will work with a hearing aid set to the T position. Please request a personal receiver from the Committee's Administrator and return it at the end of the meeting.

7. **Recording of meetings**

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chairman can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in County Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance.

## **SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Friday 16 June 2017 at 11.00 am

**Present:** Cllr L Redman (Chairman), Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr J Lock, Cllr M Pullin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Williams, Richard Berry and Ruth Hobbs

**Other Members present:**

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr N Bloomfield, Helen Fenn and Eileen Tipper

### **2 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2**

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting and he hoped that both new and returning Members would find being on the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and enjoyable and interesting experience.

At the suggestion of Cllr J Lock, the Chairman called for a moment of quiet contemplation to mark the anniversary of the passing of the former Member of Parliament for Batley and Spennings, Mrs Jo Cox, who had been murdered in her constituency, 12 months earlier.

Cllr Coles, Cllr Filmer, Cllr Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr Pullin, Cllr Redman, and Cllr Williams, all declared a personal interest as a District and/or City/Town, Parish Councillor.

Mrs Hobbs declared a personal interest regarding agenda item 7 as a Director Somerset Parent Carer Forum.

### **3 Minutes from the last meeting - Agenda Item 3**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the last meeting were accurate, and the Chairman signed them.

### **4 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4**

There were no members of the public present.

### **5 Scrutiny Work Programme - Agenda Item 5**

The Chairman explained to the Committee that an item on the agenda for each of its meetings would be to consider its own work programme and proposed future agenda items and he noted that any Member of the Council could propose an area and or topic within the Committee's remit for it to consider and scrutinise.

The Committee considered and accepted its own work programme and the future agenda items listed and agreed to add the following items:

To include for the 29 July meeting an update on the MFTP process and savings within Children's Services;

To include for the 15 September meeting an update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children;

The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings up to 10 July 2017. The Chairman explained that this was also included for each meeting to allow Members an opportunity to request considering an item either before or after a Cabinet meeting or Cabinet member decision.

The Chairman explained the background of the outcome tracker and how this had proved to be a useful tool in ensuring the recommendations or suggested actions of the Committee were being followed through and progressed. There was a brief discussion of some of the previous outcomes and their colour/status and the Scrutiny Manager provided updates. The Committee accepted the updated outcome tracker.

## **6 Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee considered this report that provided the Committee with details of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) a three year plan that had started in April 2016 that set out the actions the Council and its partners were taking to continue and sustain improvements in Children's Services. The Plan followed a multi-agency approach, and was overseen by the Somerset Children's Trust and had 7 improvement programmes, each managed by a relevant Board to ensure improvement in those areas, as follows:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Embedding a 'Think Family' approach
4. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
5. Building skills for life
6. Providing help early and effectively
7. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service.

The Partnership Business Manager – Children's Services, introduced the report and provided a very thorough overview of its contents, explaining the CYPP's origins after the Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education in November 2015 requiring a three year CYPP to be developed and implemented which the Department for Education could then use to judge how effective and sustainable improvements in children's social care functions had been.

It was explained by way of further background that the CYPP was the strategic plan for Somerset Children's Trust, providing the focus for partners' actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education would measure improvement. An update of the plan was reported on a quarterly basis and the report contained details of Quarter 4 and the end of Year 1. The meeting therefore provided an opportunity to introduce Members to the CYPP and allow time for comments and questions on the progress at the end of the



first year and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan into its second year.

Members heard about the data contained in the Executive Summary and particular explanation and attention was given to the areas that were showing as red and therefore missing target. In addition it was reported that measures were also being used to assess the delivery of the 7 improvement programmes and a set of overarching measures designed to assess 'how we would know we had made a difference', as this would be a likely method that Ofsted would use to gauge how effect policy changes brought about by the CYPP had been.

The report was accepted. The Chairman encouraged Committee Members to consider the CYPP before the next meeting in July. He also expressed his desire for each Member of the Committee to become a volunteer champion, taking a specific interest in one of the 7 programmes. The Committee also requested that a glossary of acronyms be provided to aid understanding.

## 7 **SEND Peer Review** - Agenda Item 7

The Committee considered a report that provided details of a peer review carried out last May by Gloucestershire County Council of the Council and partners, as part of the preparation for a Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability 0-25 (SEND 0-25) by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The resulting report (attached to the report as an appendix) acknowledged that there were some good practices and initiatives throughout the service but that a local area inspection would be likely to find 'significant weaknesses' in practice, based on progress to date in the implementation of SEND reforms and a lack of evidence to display the positive impact made in relation to outcomes for children across Somerset to date.

It was reported that the peer review had found an acknowledgement that there had been a delay in Somerset responding to the SEND reform agenda – which had been reflected by the reactive nature of the SEND work since 2015. This had meant that the local area had not made the level of progress that would normally be expected by the reforms in terms of showing improved outcomes for children and young people. Overall the peer review found there had been a slow pace of change and it was unclear why certain areas had been prioritised over others when looking purely at the measurable impact those had made for Children and Young People in Somerset with SEND.

The Chairman asked how the required improvements would be brought and monitored and the Director of Children's Services replied that the peer review had recommended priority areas and a lead officer had been identified to drive through a rapid response. The priority area groups would meet fortnightly and focus on addressing the findings of the peer review and would report to a newly established multi-agency SEND 0-25 Intervention group. It was also noted that an Interim Head for SEND was now in post, and this would provide valuable capacity and expertise in the Council's response to the peer review.

The report was accepted and it was suggested and agreed that an update be provided in a few months to give the Committee an overview of the progress.

## **8 Progress Report on the Implementation of the 30 hours per week Early Years Entitlement - Agenda Item 8**

The Committee considered this report that provided an update (requested by the previous Committee in 2016) on the capital projects that were submitted to the Education Funding and Skills Agency (EFSA) to support sufficiency of places for the new requirement to deliver 30 hours a week funded places for 3 and 4 years old from 1 September 2017. This had been brought about by the Childcare Act 2016 that discharged a duty to Local Authorities to secure sufficient places for the extended entitlement of 30 hours childcare for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds.

It was explained that the capital funding and support strategies to the early years sector aimed to help create sufficient childcare places for the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in Somerset and supported the 7 programmes in the Somerset's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19.

Members heard, by way of a background, that expressions of interest had been sought from the early year's sector and applications were scored against the EFSA criteria set out in the application guidance. Somerset had then submitted 6 projects for consideration by the EFSA and all 6 projects had been approved with total capital funding awarded to Somerset of £1,515,027.31.

The six projects put forward scored the highest scores at shortlisting and were most likely to meet the tight timeframe to be ready to deliver 30 hour spaces in September 2017. The final six projects were a combination of both Local Authority led bids and private providers and an update about each of the projects was provided in section 4 of the report.

There was a brief discussion about the estimated sufficiency of places and the overall supply and demand estimates and it was reported that by the end of last May, some 280 providers out of 496 that would accept the extra entitlement had registered as offering 30 hours spaces, 56% of providers and approximately 3902 spaces. The figure had subsequently risen to 69% of providers with 4,271 spaces and it was explained that offering spaces was not mandatory and providers could voluntarily register online with the Council. This meant there may be more providers offering spaces and proactive exercises to establish the extent of further spaces would be carried out during June and July 2017.

The Chairman thanked Officers for the update and the report was accepted.

## **9 Fostering Recruitment Update report - Agenda Item 9**

The Committee considered this report that provided an overview of the on-going fostering recruitment activity, and Members heard that a rolling programme of pro-active recruitment activity continued with the support of the Communications Team and that it had been particularly good at raising awareness and the profile of this important area.

It was reported that the recruitment of sufficient numbers of foster carers for children in care had become a rising challenge both locally and nationally, and there had been a national rise in the number of children in care although Somerset had been able to hold this number steady at approximately 475 children for a period of 12 months. In response to a question it was stated that this was due to improved care planning and support provided to families to enable them to continue to care for children at home.

It was noted that a lack of sufficient numbers of foster placements remained a significant pressure within the service and it affected the delivery of appropriate plans for children. In response to a question it was explained that Somerset had enough placements for Somerset children but that it remained the case some were taken up by children from other areas, and that the existing gap of placements was around 30-40 number. Members heard that local authorities across the country had at times to place children, particularly older children, in placements which may not meet their assessed need, for example, children may be placed in residential provision or in placements out of county due to insufficient fostering provision including children with more complex needs.

There was a brief discussion about Performance information over the last year and it was noted that 2016/17 had seen a continued increase use of in-house fostering provision despite an overall net loss of foster carers as de-registration numbers remained high and represented a net loss of fostering households. In response to a question about the reasons for deregistration it was stated that there were various reasons and that for a number of carers it was because permanence has been secured for the children placed with them. This could mean some foster carers becoming special guardians or adopting the children in their care. Amongst other reasons given were due to changes in the foster carer's family circumstances and it was noted that only 4 carers gave dissatisfaction with the service as a reason for deregistration and no carers had left the service to transfer to another fostering agency.

During consideration and discussion of the report Officers encouraged Members to share ideas and suggestions for improving the overall fostering offer in Somerset and Members suggested attendance at local Shows or Fetes being held across the County in the summer months and it was also suggested that information articles be included in local Parish/Village magazines to raise awareness of the possibility of fostering.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for the update.

**10 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 10**

The Chairman, after ascertaining there were no other matters arising, thanked all those present for attending this first meeting of the new quadrennium and he encouraged his fellow Committee Members to take up opportunities to visit and/or learn about this interesting and varied area of the Council's business.

**(The meeting ended at 1.20 pm)**

**CHAIRMAN**

## Somerset County Council Forward Plan of proposed Key Decisions

The County Council is required to set out details of planned key decisions at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken. This forward plan sets out key decisions to be taken at Cabinet meetings as well as individual key decisions to be taken by either the Leader, a Cabinet Member or an Officer. The very latest details can always be found on our website at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

(a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or

(b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The Council has decided that the relevant threshold at or above which the decision is significant will be £500,000 for capital / revenue expenditure or savings. Money delegated to schools as part of the Scheme of Financial Management of Schools exercise is exempt from these thresholds once it is delegated to the school.

Cabinet meetings are held in public at County Hall unless Cabinet resolve for all or part of the meeting to be held in private in order to consider exempt information/confidential business. The Forward Plan will show where this is intended. Agendas and reports for Cabinet meetings are also published on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting date.

Individual key decisions that are shown in the plan as being proposed to be taken "not before" a date will be taken within a month of that date, with the requirement that a report setting out the proposed decision will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the date of decision. Any representations received will be considered by the decision maker at the decision meeting.

In addition to key decisions, the forward plan shown below lists other business that is scheduled to be considered at a Cabinet meeting during the period of the Plan, which will also include reports for information. The monthly printed plan is updated on an ad hoc basis during each month. *Where possible the County Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is quite likely, however, that some items will need to be rescheduled and new items added as new circumstances come to light.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date plan.

For general enquiries about the Forward Plan:

- You can view it on the County Council web site at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>
- You can arrange to inspect it at County Hall (in Taunton).
- Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Scott Wooldridge or Julia Jones in the Community Governance Team by telephoning (01823) 359027 or 357628.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)  
Please note that it could take up to 2 minutes to download this PDF document depending on your Internet connection speed.

To make representations about proposed decisions:

Please contact the officer identified against the relevant decision in the Forward Plan to find out more information or about how your representations can be made and considered by the decision maker.

The Agenda and Papers for Cabinet meetings can be found on the County Council's website at:  
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 July 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>FP/17/06/04</b> First published: 13 June 2017</p>	<p>20 Jul 2017 Commercial &amp; Business Services Director</p>	<p>Issue: Disposal of Surplus Land and Farms Decision: Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus land and farms including those disposals to be conducted via public auction, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Cabinet Minutes June and July 2010: County Farm Review Cabinet Member Key Decision 18 October 2010: County Farm Estate – Outcome of farm by farm reviews Notification of proposed decision for Disposal of Surplus Land and Farms Appendix A - List of proposed surplus assets for disposal Chilton Polden land Edington Middle Thrupe Farm Willets and Paul's Copse, Donyatt Donyatt Oxenford Farm</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325</p>
<p><b>FP/17/05/03</b> First published: 15 May 2017</p>	<p>24 Jul 2017 Cabinet Member for Business Investment &amp; Policy</p>	<p>Issue: Contract to supply books to Library Service Decision: To award the contract to the preferred supplier(s) as an outcome of the ESPO led procurement for the supply of books.</p>	<p>ESPO Framework 376F_14 Notification of proposed contract for the supply of books to the Library Service</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Tabitha Witherick, Service Manager: Development Tel: 01823357480</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 July 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<b>Fp/17/03/11</b> First published: 29 March 2017	Not before 24th Jul 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development	Issue: Asset Rationalisation : A refreshed approach Decision: Sets out our principles for a refreshed approach to assets and disposals with a more proactive approach working with services in order to deliver the council's priorities			Claire Lovett, Head of Property Tel: 07977412583
<b>FP/17/05/02</b> First published: 12 May 2017	26 Jul 2017 Cabinet Member for Business Investment & Policy, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Revision of Section 106 contributions formula for Early Years Provision Decision: To increase the Section 106 contributions formula for Early Years Provision from 3.5 places per 100 houses to 5 funded places from 1st September 2017	Early education and childcare; Statutory guidance for local authorities (2017) Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan (2016) - <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/EducationIGP">www.somerset.gov.uk/EducationIGP</a>		Charlotte Wilson, Service Manager Early Years Commissioning Tel: 01823 357386
<b>FP/17/02/01</b> First published: 14 February 2017	Not before 31st Jul 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Award of Contract for the provision of a 3 Classroom Block at Court Fields School, Wellington Decision: To approve the awarding of the contract to the successful contractor	Confidential Financial Report Capital Programme Paper	Part exempt	Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962



Weekly version of plan published on 3 July 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<b>FP/17/06/07</b> First published: 26 June 2017	Not before 31st Jul 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Authorise the purchase of Land at Cathedral Park, Wells for the development of Wells Technology Enterprise Centre. Decision: Authority to: • Purchase of land at Cathedral Park, Wells for the development of the Wells Technology Enterprise Centre	Any relevant decision paper which have acted as precursors to this decision paper.		Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
<b>FP/17/06/10</b> First published: 30 June 2017	Not before 31st Jul 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Capital Funding Investment Expansion of Bridgwater College Academy Decision: Approval to fund expansion of Bridgwater Academy to meet Local Authority Statutory Duty to provide sufficient school places	School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan for Somerset 2017		Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
<b>FP/17/07/05</b> First published: 13 July 2017	Not before 14th Aug 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Award of specialist traffic signals contract. Decision: To approve the procurement of specialist Traffic Signals design services via a Framework contract.	Confidential tender appendix	Part exempt	Bev Norman, Service Manager - Traffic Management, Traffic & Transport Development, John Kitchen, Traffic Control Engineer, Traffic Control, Traffic & Transport Development Tel: 01823358089, Tel: 01823358140

Weekly version of plan published on 3 July 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>FP/17/06/08</b> First published: 27 June 2017</p>	<p>16 Aug 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Award of a contract for the provision of highway improvements at Yeovil Western Corridor Decision: To consider awarding a contract for highway junction improvement and associated works at Yeovil Western Corridor</p>			<p>Mike O'Dowd-Jones, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Highways and Transport Tel: 01823 356238</p>
<p><b>FP/17/06/09</b> First published: 27 June 2017</p>	<p>16 Aug 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Our County - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Annual Summary 2017 Decision: To consider the annual JSNA and any recommendations</p>			<p>Pip Tucker, Public Health Specialist Tel: 01823 359449</p>
<p><b>FP/17/05/10</b> First published: 1 June 2017</p>	<p>16 Aug 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Proposal for the development of joint commissioning for Health and Social Care Decision: To consider the proposals</p>			<p>Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015</p>
<p><b>Fp/17/07/04</b> First published: 12 July 2017</p>	<p>16 Aug 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Development of a Family Hub approach for Somerset Decision: To outline the proposed approach and consultation arrangements</p>			<p>Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services Commissioning Tel: 01823 359054</p>

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FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<b>FP/17/04/08</b> First published: 24 April 2017	Not before 7th Sep 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director	Issue: Approval to accept Highways England Growth & Housing Fund award toward the M5 J25 improvement scheme. Decision: To accept the funding awarded by Highways England & sign the funding agreement	Copy of the funding agreement to be signed.		Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
<b>FP/17/07/03</b> First published: 10 July 2017	Not before 11th Sep 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: To agree to the purchase of the land for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 Highways Improvement Scheme. Decision: The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport agrees to: • the acquisition of land required for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 highways scheme • the continued development of the scheme.	Cabinet Member Key Decision - M5 Junction 25 – decision to proceed with consultation, design, planning and procurement – 19 Aug 2016 Cabinet Member Key Decision - To agree to enter into a funding agreement with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) for the M5 J25 Improvement scheme – 13 Jan 2017	Part exempt	Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
<b>FP/16/05/02</b> First published: 9 January 2017	27 Sep 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Road Safety Strategy Update Decision: To agree to adopt the updated Road Safety Strategy			Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763

Weekly version of plan published on 3 July 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>FP/17/07/02</b> First published: 3 July 2017</p>	<p>Before 30 Sep 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: To award procurement contract for the replacement of tail-lift vehicles with low-floor buses and people carriers. Decision: The purchase of replacement passenger transport vehicles that will improve accessibility for elderly, frail or disabled users across Somerset and facilitate future financial savings</p>	<p>Low Floor Minibus / People Carrier Procurement Business Case</p>		<p>Jane Newell, Service Commissioning Manager Highways and Transport Tel: 01823 6738</p>

## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meetings	Link to CYPP	Lead Member & Officer
<b>28 July 2017</b>		
CYPP 2017/18 – Q1 Update + Member champions		Philippa Granthier/ Chairman
Family Hubs Update		Philippa Granthier / Alison Bell
Fostering Fees and Allowances		Becky Hopkins
<b>15 September 2017</b>		
Update on the Medium Term Financial Plan and savings targets		Julian Wooster
Children’s Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback report		Simon Clifford
Data Handling		Rowina Clift-Shanley
Update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children		Julie Skorupka
Regional Adoption Agency Update		Julian Wooster
<b>20 October 2017</b>		
Young Carers Update report		Gemma Waugh
SEND Peer Review - update		Julia Ridge
<b>17 November 2017</b>		
CYPP 2017/18 – Q2 Update		Philippa Granthier
<b>8 December 2017</b>		
Update on Family Based Care (fostering) Peninsula Framework		Louise Palmer
<b>26 January 2018</b>		
<b>16 March 2018</b>		

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

School Performance		Sue Rogers
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne
<b>20 April 2018</b>		
<b>18 May 2018</b>		
<b>15 June 2018</b>		
		tbc
<b>20 July 2018</b>		
<b>14 September 2018</b>		
<b>19 October 2018</b>		
<b>16 November 2018</b>		
<b>7 December 2018</b>		

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

**Note:** Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Jamie Jackson, Governance Manager Scrutiny, who will assist you in submitting your item. [jajackson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jajackson@somerset.gov.uk) 01823 359040.

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

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## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	Link to Former Imp Plan	Action owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
<b>13 May 2016</b>	<b>Link to CYPP</b>			
Focus on the education of vulnerable children (To include Children Looked After, Special Educational Needs and Free School Meal recipients)	All	Sue Rogers	The update was accepted and it was suggested that to help improve information available for and communications with all service users a <b>decision tree</b> (visual aid in the form of a diagram/flow chart) for the benefit of service users be considered.	Pending
<b>17 June 2016</b>				
Any Business of Urgency	All	Chairman	The Chairman suggested that 7 Members of the Committee each take a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes and focus their attention and consideration of each report of how progress was being made against their particular improvement programme. The DCS replied that he thought this was a good suggestion and offered to provide Officer support for any Member of the Committee.	By the end of the quadrennium 5 Members of the Committee had volunteered.
<b>22 July 2016</b>				
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)		Sue Rogers	Committee received and accepted an update and requested a further update at a future meeting.	Sept agenda
<b>9 September 2016</b>				
DBS checks	All	Scrutiny Manager	Officers to ensure all Members of the Committee, as well as those on the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have completed a DBS check	Members will be required to complete DBS checks.
<b>11 November 2016</b>				
Work Programme	All	Leigh Redman	Chairman to liaise with the Chairman of Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee to discuss the possibility of a joint meeting.	Incomplete
<b>9 December 2016</b>				

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

<b>27 January 2017</b>				
Impact of proposed financial changes to Schools	<b>All</b>	Sue Rogers	The Committee encouraged Officers to continue to lobby for these proposed changes to be made so the higher funding materialised.	Pending
<b>10 March 2017</b>				
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting in 12 months.	March 2018
School Performance 2016		Sue Rogers	The report was accepted with an update requested in 12 months.	March 2018
<b>7 April 2017</b>				
Data Handling update		Rowina Clift-Shanley	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.	Sept 2017
Young Carers Task and Finish Final report		Gemma Waugh	The Committee agreed the suggested recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families/Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and requested a follow-up/update report in 6 months.	Oct 2017
<b>16 June 2017</b>				
Work programme		J Wooster Sue Rogers	To include for the 29 July meeting an update on the MFTP process and savings within Children's Services; To include for the 15 September meeting an update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	Sept 2017 agenda both items
SEND Peer Review		Julia Ridge	report was accepted and it was suggested and agreed that an update be provided in a few months to give the Committee an overview of the progress	Oct 2017
CYPP		Committee Chair	The Chairman encouraged every Member of the Committee to familiarise themselves with the CYPP with a view to having each Committee member becoming a Champion for one of the 7 improvement programmes.	July meeting

**The CYPP has been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. Seven improvement programmes have been identified – our work is focused on ensuring progress and achievement within these 7 programmes:**

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

Key:

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting.
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.

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Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee  
28 July 2017

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## **Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19**

Lead Officer: Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance

Author: Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager – Children's Commissioning

Contact Details: [FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk); 01823 355259

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson, Lead Member for Children and Families

Division and Local Member: All

### **1. Summary**

**1.1.** Somerset County Council has developed a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) commencing April 2016 setting out the actions we and our partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services. The plan follows a multi-agency approach, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. Seven improvement programmes, managed by the relevant Board for each improvement area are in place, as follows:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service.
7. Embedding a 'Think Family' approach

**1.2.** Children and families are a key theme within the County Plan 2016-20, recognising the importance of providing the information and advice families need to help themselves and of focusing our help early and effectively when needed. The key priorities are to improve children's safeguarding services; to improve exam results, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils; and to improve children's health and wellbeing.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

**2.1.** The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 is the strategic plan for Somerset Children's Trust, providing the focus for partners' actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education will measure our improvement. The plan is reported upon on a quarterly basis and we are now reporting upon the activity of the first quarter (April to June 2017) of Year 2 which provides a summary of activity and progress, supported by each of the 7 programmes' Highlight Reports. During this quarter the CYPP has been promoted through each Improvement Programme's delivery board, partnership meetings and events alongside the launch of 'The Journey' newsletter to all Children's Trust partners and their staff.

This meeting therefore provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the first quarter and to consider the actions set to progress

the Plan through its second year. Attached are the Quarter 1 Executive Summary (appendix 1) from the Somerset Children's Trust Executive group, and the 7 Highlight Reports from each of the 7 delivery groups (appendix 2).

### **3. Background**

- 3.1.** On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by April 2016, a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now implemented and reporting upon second year progress.
- 3.2.** The focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) in 2016 was vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP.
- 3.3.** The seven improvement programme action plans are developed annually and monitored within the nominated delivery groups. The Partnership Business team supports the delivery groups and the SCT Executive and Board by attending meetings, developing task and finish functions for areas of concern and supporting data collection and report writing across all 7 programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised and evidenced. The positive cross-cutting thinking across programmes to support specific actions is particularly noticeable following a peer review of Special Educational Needs and Education (SEND) and the actions arising from the review now inform year 2 actions. At the end of this reporting period we can demonstrate a positive start regarding additional or improved information and resources; services that support building better resilience in our children, young people, their families and the people who support them; an improved SEND offer and some strengthened approaches to the work required across our partnership.

Areas requiring more focus include the lack of data or changes to data which make year on year comparisons difficult; recruitment and retention issues in services; the challenges faced by partners to engage at pace, and a national lack of placements for children coming into care which impacts upon our local provision. At the beginning of year two the Improvement Programmes are rated amber with a holding trend as work embeds or commences.

- 3.4.** Some of the key activities for year 2, that will require challenge and support from Scrutiny members include:
  - Improving the partnership approach to SEND, across all 7 improvement programmes
  - the West Somerset Opportunity Area which is aimed at improving social mobility (programme 1);
  - developing proposals for the early help hubs (or family hubs) through initial joint working between public health nursing and getset services which will involve consultation around staff, assets and processes and will be supported through Programme 5 and the Early Help Board.
  - Development of an adolescent strategy to target those young people who are most vulnerable to issues of neglect, exploitation and family conflict and breakdown
  - Sufficiency of local placement options for children looked after and those

with more complex needs

- Ensuring a more co-ordinated and joined up approach across partners to support children and families experiencing emotional wellbeing and mental health issues, and addressing the reported high numbers of those who self-harm.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

**4.1.** In developing the new CYPP, all those organisations and groups including under the duty to co-operate as stipulated in the Children Act 2004 were consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.

**4.2.** Consultation undertaken includes:

- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
- The Unstoppables (SEND)
- CAMHS Participation Group
- Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
- Young Healthwatch
- Young Carers
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum

The voice of children, young people and their families is regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback their views. Further work is underway in Quarter 2 to widen the scope and to ensure the voice of children and young people truly influences our developments and activity by producing a Participation Toolkit for partners to use.

#### **5. Implications**

**5.1.** Financial: The CYPP has been implemented in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The priorities outlined in the plan are to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated reductions over the next three years.

**5.2.** Equality & Diversity: Somerset Children's Trust seeks to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people. This incorporates the need to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality Act's General Duty.

**5.3.** Legal: Local Children's Trust arrangements are underpinned by the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) and there are no plans to repeal this duty. The Children's Trust holds its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan, and has agreed to review progress against the Plan on a quarterly basis.

The Direction Notice referred to in para 3.1 above was issued under section 497A (4B) of the Education Act 1996.

**6. Background papers**

**6.1.** [\*Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19\*](#)

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author





## Somerset Children's Trust – Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) Executive Summary

### ***Progress as at: end June 2017***

#### **Overall:**

Year two of the Children & Young People's Plan 2016 – 19 (CYPP) commences with ambitious and robust action plans that reflect the good progress made in Year One, focusses on embedding developments from year one, and lays out the challenges to ensure the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) meets the outcomes agreed in the CYPP.

The action plans were produced by Programme Leads in consultation with their steering bodies and wider consultation with senior management, via workshops and team meetings. These discussions included learning from the challenges presented in year one in order to improve our ability to evidence progress via the use of data, incorporating the voice of the child and seeking relevant case studies.

During this period, actions for this year were also determined by the Ofsted monitoring visits, the appointment of a new interim head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and a peer review of SEND provision in Somerset. Additionally, following local elections, the new Corporate Parenting Board membership was formed and their priorities for the next quadrennium have been set. As a consequence, any additional actions arising from these events have been incorporated into year two action plans and some early progress can be reported in Quarter 1.

In order to bring the voice of children, young people, their families and the workers supporting them, into our reporting of the CYPP we amalgamated the new SCT local Business Champions with the county Board of Practitioner's meetings for a more robust and effective method of communication from an operational perspective. This has been complemented with the launch of the CYPP newsletter 'The Journey' which received much positive feedback. Work has now commenced on the next quarterly issue.

#### **Progress During Q1:**

Each programme has set out its achievements for quarter 1 in their individual action plans and highlight reports. An analysis of these early achievements shows that they fall into four themes for consideration.

Information & Resources:

- An on-line parent/carer tool kit has been launched
- Early help resources for emotional health and well-being are now being mapped
- 30 staff have been trained in perinatal and infant mental health awareness
- The new CAMHS services are now fully functional
- A national public health campaign around sugar ran in every primary school
- Teachers across the county have undertaken Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training
- A number of apprenticeship and employer engagement discussions and events have taken place
- Training from the Institute of Family Therapy training has been commissioned for leadership in Children's Social Care
- There is growth of multi-agency use of Professional Choices as a tool to do the job

Resilience in our children, young people, their families and the people who support them:

- Our schools' performance remains strong
- The Team Around the School model has achieved its target reach and is embedding quality assurance
- Our Year 11 Children Looked After (CLA) all have identified destinations for their future education
- A further successful 45 Troubled Families have achieved their outcomes this quarter bringing the project total to date to 274
- An increasing number of volunteers and volunteering opportunities have been created
- Further opportunities for children, young people and their families to participate especially in the areas of emotional health and well-being and SEND
- Work on the better identification of young carers and the support they require is commencing
- Multi-agency training on the Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens is taking place
- Emotion Coaching, Mental Health First Aid and other training is taking place in schools
- Fewer pregnant women are smoking at delivery
- A successful recruitment campaign means that there are now more lay breast feeding champions in Somerset.

SEND:

- 9 SEND priorities have been identified following the recent peer review by Gloucestershire County Council which focus on:

1. Joint Commissioning
2. Health Engagement
3. Transitions
4. Participation
5. Early Help for SEND
6. Statutory Assessment
7. Complex Cases
8. School Improvement
9. OFSTED Preparation

Approaches:

- There will be a major focus in year two on the plans towards developing early help hubs (or family hubs) through joint working between public health nursing and getset services
- The Early Help Case Management system has been implemented in getset
- 29 councillors have undertaken Corporate Parenting training resulting in 10 members on the Board and 2 members on each of the Board sub-groups
- Mapping work has commenced to identify early help mental health resources
- A multi-agency Pre-birth Protocol has been written for ratification by the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB)
- A Neglect strategy and action plan has been written and awaiting ratification
- A Missing protocol has been revised including improved return home interview processes
- A Think Family multi agency workshop took place in June and 4 sub-groups are now taking the work forward
- The Workforce Strategy is now in place for Children's Social Care and job adverts out for new social workers in 2 districts.

**Quarter One reporting has identified a number of slippages, issues and risks aligned to the themes of resilience, capacity and approaches.**

There is a problem obtaining fuel poverty data as there is no longer a national focus on fuel poverty and so no data collection. However, the

Strategic Housing Group are working to determine what data sets they hold that evidence the level of household poverty and its effect on children and young people. Additionally, it has not been possible to re-visit homes where child safety equipment was previously fitted to assess its effectiveness.

Recruitment issues continue and have been identified in programme 3 regarding vacancies for children and young people mental health workers. There have been issues in obtaining relevant data especially where measures/standards have changed making year on year comparison impossible or confusing. Programme 2 identified that more time is required to get a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with Support Services for Education (SSE) regarding High Needs Budgets for vulnerable learners.

Partnership engagement continues to be challenging however, there is evidence across all 7 programmes of a growing pattern of multi-agency working.

Programme 6 highlights that, despite efforts and ongoing strategic focus, there is a lack of placement capacity nationally which is impacting on sufficiency locally. The Corporate Parenting Board has asked for an analysis of out of area placements data to determine the reasons that prevent our children looked after from living in Somerset.

Finally, there is stronger representation of children, young people, their families and the people who support them in our CYPP reporting, especially through the emerging Participation Workers Network.

**Emerging work for next quarter:**

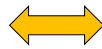
- Focus on the 9 priorities for SEND
- West Somerset Opportunity Area strategy to be published
- Mental health training in schools continues
- A self-harm steering group to be established and action plan drafted
- Distribution of funding for Achieving Excellence for All activities
- A review of performance targets at end of Key Stage Assessments and any required revisions to targets proposed
- The engagement and consultation regarding the proposed model of Family Hubs to be launched
- Following scoping and an options paper, the Adolescent Strategy to be developed
- Ongoing work with schools to improve the Troubled Families caseload data sharing

- Follow up of Think Family Workshop to progress the multi-agency protocol
- Joint review of effectiveness of Emergency out of Hours Service
- The implementation of the Neglect Strategy
- A business case to be raised to increase capacity in the Virtual School to incorporate post 16 CLA.


**Decisions Required:**

- That the SCT Executive approves the progress for all 7 programmes at the end of year 2 quarter 1

**1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient**


<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	<p>This quarter has already shown some positive actions with the publication of the parenting offer and significant work towards increasing volunteering capability. Work has started on personalisation and mapping early help for emotional health and well-being. Ongoing work continues on improving the local offer and developing the West Somerset Opportunity Area action plan and partnership board. Some slippage on this programme is due to the lack of fuel poverty figures and we await alternative poverty measures to be determined.</p> <p>The impact of the positive activity in this programme will not be reflected for some time; therefore, the status remains at amber.</p>		

**2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life**

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	<p>Quarter 1 has seen some positive achievements for Programme 2 especially around information – the new Parent and Carer toolkit is live, training on parenting skills has taken place in early years settings and schools and professional</p>		


development for teaching staff has been delivered. Better support for new parents regarding breastfeeding support, smoking cessation advice and perinatal and infant mental health is in place. This programme will have high level involvement with Programme 5 regarding the proposed new Family Hubs and further progress will be reported via the Early Help Board through the year. Additionally, actions arising from the SEND Health group will be commenced and reported in the year. These two high level actions mean that the rating of the progress to date remains at Amber. Reported slippage this quarter is in regards to the failure to revisit homes that were previous equipped with Child Safety Equipment and the re-visit opportunity has now passed.

### 3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
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**Reason for current status:** Although the Single Point of Access is now fully operational, the Community Eating Disorder Service is meeting its access and waiting time standards, the online Kooth counselling service has been launched and the Enhanced Outreach Service is operating 12 hours daily, this programme remains rated at Amber. However, future reporting will reflect the ongoing training in schools and communities, mapping work around community resources and the outcomes of increased participation opportunities. Some of this work will require vacancies to be filled and evidence of outcomes will be supported with work on establishing a data dashboard. This will highlight issues such as duplication or gaps in provision arising from the impact of not joining up health, education, social care and other sectors such as the voluntary and community sector.

### 4. Building skills for life

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
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**Reason for current status:** There are some notable successes at the beginning of year 2 for Programme 4 especially in the areas of early years settings' and schools' performance and the Team Around the School model which has now reached its target to be in place across all schools in the county. However, there is still much work to do regarding better outcomes for vulnerable

learners and although the work has commenced under the remit of the new interim head of SEND, this programme commences year 2 at Amber. Future arrangements of High Need funding through the Support Services for Education (SSE) is reporting slippage due to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) not yet being in place. This programme has highlighted the concern around the number of pupils with SEND being excluded on fixed term and permanent exclusion and the reasons behind the increasing numbers of families choosing to home educate. These issues will be addressed and progress reported in future papers.

**5. Providing help early and effectively**

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
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<b>Reason for current status:</b>	The majority of the action plan relates to new actions and embedding new developments, neither of which can yet be evidenced by improved outcomes. However, significant work is now underway on the proposed early help (family) hubs, the adolescent strategy and young carers support. In particular, the development of the family hub model and the transformation programme it requires to deliver them will pose some risk which will be monitored closely by the Early Help Board, and through SCC governance arrangements. Additionally, the SEND priorities offer a challenge around a comprehensive and co-ordinated early help offer for children with SEND. Therefore the programme remains at Amber and will report on progress of the new activities in due course.		
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**6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service**

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
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<b>Reason for current status:</b>	The programme has evidenced achievements in resilience and relationships training for social care staff; it has commissioned leadership training due to commence in the Autumn and the launch of the multi-agency protocol. However, there are many other activities around staff recruitment, retention, training, resilience and support that will be ongoing through Year 2 therefore the programme commences as an Amber rating.		
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**7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce**

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	<p>The Think Family Workshop took place in June involving a good range of partners. Engagement was good and a desire to move forward was evident. Four multi-agency task and finish groups have been established to set the pace towards establishing a Think Family protocol. However, due to the capacity of all partners to engage the timelines set for this activity are unable to commence until late Summer. Additionally, the Workforce Development Board's data dashboard has been able to evidence that the target of 60% permanent workforce set for year one has increased to 77%. Conversely, average caseloads have risen to 15.9 against a target of 14 and staff turnover has increased from 12% to 14.2%. With more work needed to address these concerns this programme remains at Amber.</p>		

### Somerset's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019

#### Seven Improvement Programmes Key Risks for 2017/18

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
<b>1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient</b>	<b>Risk that the Somerset partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns regarding Police capacity to manage workflow and respond to joint enquiries in a timely manner</li> <li>Refer-on culture deeply embedded amongst Somerset services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership (&amp; support) across the partnership and driving the agenda.</li> <li>Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels</li> <li>Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Promoting healthy</b>	<b>Pressures in the NHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of CCG to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Health lead appointments have been</li> </ul>



CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
<p><b>outcomes and giving children the best start in life</b></p>	<p><b>could lead to a lack of capacity / focus to improve the outcomes for vulnerable children</b></p>	<p>Commission Children's Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health capacity for children looked after and their carers</li> <li>• Reduced capacity within prevention and early intervention programmes</li> </ul>	<p>made and commenced in January 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Exploring increased specialist medical capacity through the Regional Adoption Agency initiative</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Risk that the 'CAMHS transformation plan' does not deliver sufficient transformation to ensure early help and preventative activities are prioritised for all vulnerable groups in particular children looked after</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays in recruiting to key NHS posts</li> <li>• Limited NHS partnership with Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Board taking leadership in monitoring progress</li> <li>• Senior leaders engaging with CCG Commissioners and providers to progress developments and monitor performance</li> <li>• Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• LA match resourcing support to develop a specialist team for children looked after.</li> <li>• Multi Agency Complex Cases Protocol</li> <li>• Implementation of new support to schools by Somerset Partnership commissioned by CCG</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Building skills for life</b></p>	<p><b>Risk that Schools do not improve the outcomes for vulnerable groups – children look after, special educational</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools achieving well overall in outcomes / inspection judgements despite overall poor outcomes for vulnerable pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LA leading the education strategic vision is giving priority to schools to focus on school improvement &amp; pupil outcomes and not structural redesign</li> <li>• Investment by the LA in Somerset Education Partnerships to provide 'critical</li> </ul>

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
	<p><b>needs and children in receipt of pupil premium</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent local practice by some schools not shared by others because of weak partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• friend' support to all head teachers</li> <li>• Challenging school providers in relation to pupil outcomes</li> <li>• Strengthening the role and capacity of the Virtual School Head</li> <li>• Roll out of the Team around the School model to encourage multi-agency support to schools where they are best placed to meet child's needs, in particular vulnerable groups</li> <li>• West Somerset Opportunity Area</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Providing help early and effectively</b></p>	<p><b>Risk that the Somerset partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer-on culture deeply embedded amongst Somerset services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership (&amp; support) across the partnership and driving the agenda</li> <li>• Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels</li> <li>• Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust</li> <li>• Development of multi-agency tools which aid collaboration and joint working including a collaboration platform to enable better quality sharing of information in a secure way, and the simplification of Early Help processes to aid engagement and ownership</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Achieving effective multi-</b></p>	<p><b>Risk that improvements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent increase in demand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managers taking action to control work flow</li> </ul>

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
<p><b>agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</b></p>	<p><b>will not be sustained and consistency of social work practice will remain a cause for concern</b></p>	<p>and difficulties of recruitment led to dip in morale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent practice amongst staff</li> <li>• Permanent staff not always clear about 'good' practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QPRM monthly meetings</li> <li>• Case Audits</li> <li>• Briefing events led by senior leaders on the journey travelled</li> <li>• Showcasing good practice</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce (year one focus is on developing the permanent social care workforce)</b></p>	<p><b>Risk that permanent social work vacancies are not filled at fast enough pace and an over reliance on recruitment of ASYEs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of locums in some teams is too high</li> <li>• Seasonal difficulties in recruiting experienced locums</li> <li>• Neighbouring LA responding to their own difficulties with higher social work salaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan in place to achieve 75% permanent staffing</li> <li>• ASYE support by designated Consultant Social Work posts</li> <li>• Focused recruitment activity for Experienced Social Workers</li> <li>• Increasingly mature response by managers in terms of balancing pressures and maintaining quality</li> <li>• Clarity provided to multi-agency workforce of desired values and behaviours necessary to deliver the plan</li> <li>• Using the IR35 changes as an opportunity to convert locums to permanent staff</li> <li>• Looking after our own events focussed on resilience of the workforce</li> </ul>

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## CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

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*Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period.*

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>1 Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Sue Rogers – Deputy Director of Education, Somerset County Council (Interim: Philippa Granthier – Assistant Director, Commissioning & Performance)	<b>Report Date:</b>	10/07/17

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	This quarter has already shown some positive actions with the publication of the parenting offer and significant work towards increasing volunteering capability. Work has started on personalisation and mapping early help for emotional health and wellbeing. On-going work continues on improving the local offer and developing the West Somerset Opportunity Area action plan and partnership board. The impact of this activity will not be reflected for some time however therefore, the status remains at Amber.		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### Achievements:

- Publicise Parenting Offer – parenting information is now available through the Local Offer (Somerset Choices) linked to the new Parent and Carer Toolkit hosted on Public Health website [www.cypsomersethealth.org](http://www.cypsomersethealth.org)
- Increase number of volunteers working within Somerset County Council through Somerset 'You Can Do' (SYCD) – the choices of volunteering opportunities has increased, with new services coming onto SYCD throughout Summer 2017 and better engagement with Voluntary and Community Sector Enterprise (VCSE) on boards and other decision making functions
- Promote volunteering opportunities – SYCD has undergone rebranding and relaunched with Volunteering Week in June; posters, flyers and website particularly targeting schools and libraries
- Define and improve SEND offer – the re-audit of schools' website compliance has shown

significant improvement; POET (Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool) returns exceeded minimum target (203 returns for a target of 125)

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing resources - mapping workshop of partnership early help resources for emotional health and wellbeing carried out by Strategic Commissioning Group for CYP Mental Health and Psychological Wellbeing and now collecting specific data from Early Help Assessment's (EHA's)
- Personalisation – Task and Finish group established and plan for joint strategy agreed
- All Somerset primary schools took part in the public health campaign Change4Life Sugar Smart

#### **Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)**

- Reduce the level of fuel poverty figures - the Government has changed the definition of fuel poverty and the latest data relates to 2014; since then little work has taken place on fuel poverty. The Strategic Housing group will offer alternative measures with reference to improving housing around young children using data from the Housing Health and Safety Rating System and will establish a baseline to work from

### **3. Actions and outputs for the next period:**

- West Somerset Opportunity Area (WSOA) – Strategy to be published in Autumn 2017 and 4 priorities now supported by work stream groups and draft operational plans
- Promote inclusion in communities through developing a Charter Mark – this work will be undertaken by the newly recruited SEND commissioner
- Quality of health services for service users with SEND - Report from roadshows held in Qtr 1 (Yr 2) will be produced for commissioners and providers

### **4. Most significant current risk/s:**

- Debt advice and support – although EHA's identify families needing advice and support, there is no resulting data from Citizen's Advice Bureaux or Housing providers to evidence that families can manage debt and access the benefits they are entitled to




### **5. Most significant current issue/s:**






- There has been an increase in the number of school aged children with SEND placed out of the state sector. This is an issue in ensuring children are supported in the most appropriate provision to suit their needs; too many children are placed in special school or out of county settings

### **6. Variances:**




### **7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:**




That the Board recognises the position of actions at Qtr 1 (Yr 2) and supports this programme with relevant advice towards further progress

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>1. Provide information, advice, tools for families to help themselves</b>			
Number of visits to Somerset Choices Website		33,025 sessions from 19,166 users. 56.7% were new visitors and 43.3% were returning (R12 months ending June 2017)	25,806 sessions from 14,714 users. 56.4% were returning visitors and 43.6% were new visitors (1 <sup>st</sup> April 16 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 17) 
Number of providers/services listed on Somerset Choices Website		1199 providers 88 services 211 info pages	1494 (incl. 229 information pages) November 16 
Number of households supported with online support		Not available	
Number of households supported with personal budgeting support		Not available	
Infant mortality	Annual England average 3.9 (2013-2015)	4.2 deaths per 1000 live births (70 infants) (2013-2015)	4.2 deaths per 1000 live births (70 infants) (2012-2014) 
Chlamydia detection rate.	Annual National Target = 1,900	1,815 per 100,000 (1,056 people) 2016	1,523 per 100,000 (904 people) (2015)
Teenage pregnancy rates	England Average = 20.8 per 1,000	17.1 per 1,000 2015	17.2 per 1,000 females aged under 18 (169 conceptions) (2014)
% of schools with PHSE curriculum		Not available	
Take up of personal budgets for children with disabilities			10 young people currently receiving a PHB from health
Number and percentage of children accessing short breaks		<b>Feb Half Term 2017 (1 week)</b> 648 short break activity hours available 669.50 short break	No comparable year on year figures

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
		activity hours used <b>Easter and May Holidays 2017 (3 weeks in total)</b> 2164 short break activity hours available 2182 short break activity hours used	
<b>2. Supporting parents in their role</b>			
Number of Parents attending and completing targeted parenting programme		95 carers attended the Triple P parenting programme (number of carers seen, reached) YTD 31 <sup>st</sup> December 16	79 carers attended the Triple P parenting programme (YTD June 16) 
<b>3. Supporting Communities in the third sector</b>			
Increased number of employment and training opportunities for vulnerable groups e.g. leaving care.		41.7% (88/211) Care Leavers NEET (May 2017)	43.5% (123/283) Care Leavers NEET (Feb 17) 
% of children in west Somerset achieving a GLD at the end of the EYFS stage		56.9% (2015/16)	47.2% (2014/15) 
KS 2 attainment in west Somerset compared to national average		45.2% 2015/16 achieving expected standard	Not comparable due to changes in KS2 testing
KS4 attainment in west Somerset compared to national average		50% (provisional) 2015/16	49% 2014/15 
Level of participation in west Somerset 16-18 year olds		90.5% as at 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017	90.8% as at 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 
Number of volunteers recruited in SCC		Young carers = 14 getset = 29 Leaving Care = 1	getset = 21 Leaving Care = 1 Short breaks = 2



Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
		Short Breaks = 1 SEND = 1 June 2017	SEND = 1 Young Carers = 14 March 2017 
Volunteer satisfaction rate		100% of volunteers said they are happy in their current role (36 volunteers responded) since April 2016 to June 2017	100% of volunteers said they are happy in their current role (13 volunteers responded) between April and June 2016 
Number of VCS organisations engaged with VCSE forum		The VCSE strategic forum has around 35 different organisations represented, covering County Council, CCG, District Councils, Office for Civil Society, Heart of South West LEP and voluntary sector	The VCSE strategic forum has around 30 different organisations represented covering County Council, CCG, District Councils, Office for Civil Society, Heart of South West LEP and voluntary sector. 

KEY		
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 

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## CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

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<b>Programme:</b>	<b>2 Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Children & Young People Health & Wellbeing Group	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Alison Bell, Consultant in Public Health	<b>Report Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2017

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	We are at the start of the year, we have a plan for achieving our objectives, but these are yet to have achieved the impact we are aiming for		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight Report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### Achievements:

- The Parent and Carer Toolkit is live  
[http://www.cypsomersethealth.org/parent\\_and\\_carer\\_toolkit](http://www.cypsomersethealth.org/parent_and_carer_toolkit)
- Two cohorts of multi-agency Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens training has been taken up, increasing staff capability so that a minimum of 6 (Sedgemoor) and a maximum of 11 (South Somerset) CYP staff trained in each area from getset and schools
- Emotion Coaching one day training offer to schools and CYP staff has provided input to 240 participants
- The percentage of pregnant women who are still smoking at the time of delivery continues to fall, from 13.5% in 2015/16 to final outturn in 2016/17 of 12.9%
- The first cohort of 21 teaching staff have completed the Personal, Social, Health, Economic (PSHE) Education Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course, but 6 did not complete the final submission so will not get the certificate – this will provide a platform to re-launch the School Health Improvement Award  
[http://www.cypsomersethealth.org/supporting\\_health\\_improvement\\_and\\_pshe](http://www.cypsomersethealth.org/supporting_health_improvement_and_pshe)
- Work continues on engaging staff with joint working across Public Health nursing and getset Early Help services to work towards a family hub model

- Breastfeeding volunteer champion training has been completed in Mendip, Bridgwater and Taunton. There are 23 trained champions. A further 17 application forms have been requested from Somerset mothers
- Perinatal mental health – 30 staff trained in perinatal and infant mental health awareness
- Integrated care pathway in place for perinatal mental health
- A workshop was held in July with Health and Social Care partners to address some of the Children & Young People's Plan objectives around SEND – a few very tangible ideas came out of this to improve health engagement in delivery of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) which will be delivered through a Clinical Commissioning Group led project 2 workstream

#### **Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)**

- We have been unable to secure staff time to enable revisiting of homes where child safety equipment has been fitted to resurvey families about child injuries, the window for undertaking this has now passed  
Mitigation - It is proposed that the impact of this programme will be seen in a reduction in admissions to hospital as a result of injuries. Equipment fitting started in January 2016. Between 2014/15 and 2015/16 we saw a reduction of 4.2/10,000 admissions, when the programme was only really running for 1 quarter of the year, we will continue to monitor via this means
- Working through the governance for the SEND actions embedded in programme 2. Workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> July, kick-started bringing together much of the work going on to meet the health needs of children with SEND

### **3. Actions and outputs for the next period:**

- Address delays in child development through application of Speech and Language Therapy services for children experiencing speech and language problems
- Progress actions from workshop around meeting needs of children with SEND

### **4. Most significant current risk/s:**

- The transfer of children from Education Statements to Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) is causing huge pressure on health partners
- There is also an additional pressure of children aged over 18 years who are requiring an EHCP to access further education, which is a smaller but 'unpredicted' group

### **5. Most significant current issue/s:**








- No issues




### **6. Variances:**

The means to measure impact of child safety equipment fitting scheme has changed

### **7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:**

To support the decision that health partners will reach around how many groups are required to deliver the objectives contained in the work plan for improving the health and well-being of children and young people with SEND

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>(A) Deliver The Healthy Child Programme (0-19 years) consisting of integrated pathways across maternity, health visiting, school nursing, children's centres, early years settings and schools.</b>			
Children aged 5 years with one or more decayed missing or filled teeth	24.8%	23.1% (2014/15)	
New birth visits conducted by Health Visitor by day 14	90%	75%	
Perinatal & infant mental health – indicator in development	To be developed		
<b>(B) Improve breastfeeding uptake and develop peer support programmes in areas of deprivation</b>			
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks	England average 43.2%	44.0% Q4 (2016/17)	48% (Q3) 2016/17 
<b>(C) Ensure all children and young people and their families have access to health promoting information and activity</b>			
Children in reception classified as very overweight	9.3%	8.4%	
Children in year 6 classified as very overweight	19.8%	15.3%	
Percentage of new mothers smoking at the time of delivery	10.6%	12.9% Q4 out turn	12.4% Q2 Y1 
Hospital admissions of 0-14 year olds following injury	104.2/10,000 (2015/16)	120.6/10,000 (2015/16) 1078 children	
<b>(D) Identify and work with children and young people engaged in multiple risky behaviours and engage them in meaningful activity to boost self esteem</b>			

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of schools engaging in health and wellbeing survey	To be developed		
Percentage of schools undertaking an intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of their children – based on survey findings	To be developed		
Chlamydia detection rate among 15-24 year olds	National Target 1,900/100,000	1,815/100,000 (1,056 people) 2016	1,523/100,000 (904 people) 2015
<b>E) Improve health and well-being outcomes for children and young people with Special Education Needs &amp; Disabilities</b>			
To be developed	To be agreed	Not available at time of report	
<b>KEY</b>			
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 	


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<b>Programme:</b>	<b>3 Improving Emotional Health and Wellbeing</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Commissioning Group for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional and Psychological Wellbeing	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Deborah Howard - Head of Joint Commissioning (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) Somerset County Council & Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>Report Date:</b>	07.07.17

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	Much activity reported but no change to existing RAG ratings.		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### Achievements:

- Further opportunities for training available to schools - Mental Health First Aid, Emotion Coaching and SHARE (Sexual Health & Relationships Education)
- Parent Carer Toolkit developed as part of Public Health children and young people's site offering support and information regarding wellbeing, behaviour and health
- CAMHS Enhanced Outreach Service operating 8am-8pm 7 days a week
- Kooth online counselling launched in Somerset
- Mapping work has commenced
- Increase in participation opportunities for children and young people
- Single Point of Access for CAMHS is fully operational
- The Community Eating Disorder Service for Children and Young People is meeting access and waiting time standards

#### Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Some vacancies across services for children and young people's mental health - ongoing recruitment. Clinical Commissioning Group to lead system-wide workforce planning for children

and young people's mental health services to increase capacity and capability

- Development of data dashboard to be prioritised- all organisations need to agree to routinely share data

**3. Actions and outputs for the next period:**

- SHARE(Sexual Health & Relationships Education) service to launch in schools
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with additional needs to be developed
- Parent Carer Toolkit (on Public Health website) to be fully launched
- Kooth online counselling to be promoted across Somerset and to focus promotion in targeted schools
- Mapping work to be continued
- Data dashboard to be agreed
- Self Harm steering group to be established and action plan drafted
- Peer review for Community Eating Disorder service for children and young people to take place
- Engagement work with partners to support refresh of Transformation Plan to commence

**4. Most significant current risk/s:**

Work being carried out by health, education, social care and other sectors such as the voluntary sector needs to be joined up and carried out in partnership otherwise there is a risk of duplication or gaps in overall provision which could prevent children and young people's outcomes being met.

**5. Most significant current issue/s:**


- Recruitment issues continue to leave gaps in the system however these gaps have significantly reduced over the past year and are currently not reported as significantly impacting on overall service delivery
- Quality and quantity of data being shared for children and young people mental health and emotional wellbeing services across the system could be improved

**6. Variances:**

N/A

**7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:**

To note progress and next period's actions.

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Number of Mental Health First Aid courses	All secondary schools	2 schools hosting training	



Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Numbers trained through Emotion Coaching		179 CYP staff trained in Full Emotion Coaching course	↑
Unique hits on parent information pages on Public Health CYP website		115	↑
Number of referrals into CAMHS Single Point of Access		256 (April 2017)	↑
Referral to treatment times for CAMHS emergency referrals	95% seen within 24 hours	100%	↑
Referral to treatment times for CAMHS urgent referrals	95% seen within 7 days	100%	↑
Number of young people registered with Kooth online counselling	No maximum	50 (in first month of operation)	New measure
Number of young people receiving online counselling through Kooth	100 hours of counselling to be delivered/ month (can include repeat sessions for same young person)	14 (in first month of operation)	New measure

**KEY**

Shows improvement



Stayed the same



Has deteriorated



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<b>Programme:</b>	<b>4 Building Skills for Life</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEPB)	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Sue Rogers, Deputy Director of Education, Somerset County Council (Interim lead: Dave Farrow, Head of Outcomes and Sufficiency, Somerset County Council).	<b>Report Date:</b>	11/07/2017

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	There are some notable successes at the beginning of year 2 for programme 4 especially in the areas of schools and early years settings performance as judged by OFSTED, the improvements in the Virtual School and the embedding model of Team Around the School. A focus on better outcomes for vulnerable learners has now commenced including the appointment on an interim head of SEND means that actions have been identified and work has now commenced. Therefore, with the commencement of this work, this programme begins Year 2 rated as Amber.		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### Achievements:

- School Performance – 90.8% of primary and 79.5% of secondary schools are judged as Good or Better (28 schools OFSTED inspected during Quarter 1); however, both secondary and primary numbers are down from previous months. Primary school numbers of Good or better are still above national and regional numbers and secondary are above national but now below regional (two previously Good schools have moved to Requires Improvement(RI) and Inadequate following inspection)
- 87.7% of primary and 82.3% of secondary pupils attend a school that is judged Good or Better
- 95% of early years settings are judged to be Good or Better (above national average)
- New interim head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) now in place with a

focus on identifying schools with good practice for vulnerable learners

- The Team Around the School (TAS) model is on track to be operational across the county by the end of the academic year (Qtr 2) with quality assurance systems developing to ensure a consistent approach
- 88% of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Children Looked After (CLA) were completed on time; all Year 11 CLA have identified destinations for September 2017 which, if taken up, will ensure no CLA school leavers will be 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEETS).
- A specific group has been set up to ensure that education outcomes for students with SEND is a key priority
- A number of apprenticeship fairs and employer engagement events were held in Qtr 1 and are planned for Qtr 2 in order to make a broad offer for apprenticeships and vocational training

#### **Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)**

- A Service Level Agreement with SSE on behalf of the Schools Forum regarding use of High Needs budget was not completed by its target date of June 2017; however, a draft SLA has been produced. Consultation with SSE is now required in the context of the development of the wider SEND vision being led by the Interim Head of SEND

### **3. Actions and outputs for the next period:**

- Performance targets for end Key Stage assessments in Achieving Excellence for All will be reviewed in Quarter 2 and any proposed revisions to priorities and performance targets will be presented to the Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEPB) at their first meeting of the Autumn term
- Funding is available for schools and groups of schools and early years settings that support the delivery of targets set out in Achieving Excellence for All activities; bids must be submitted by July 2017 for allocation of funding for academic year 2017/2018
- All TAS will be using the Behaviour and Vulnerability Tool (BVPT) by the beginning of the new academic year (September 2017) to identify pupils needing support and the impact of any interventions

### **4. Most significant current risk/s:**

None identified

### **5. Most significant current issue/s:**






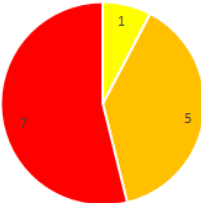
- The number of pupils being excluded on a fixed term and permanent exclusion basis has increased and now exceeds the numbers at this point of the academic year last year; two thirds of those students affected are categorised as having SEND, are Children in Need (CIN) or on a Child Protection Plan (CPP); the SEPB is working with Head teachers Association to understand this trend and address the issues
- The numbers of families choosing to home educate continues to increase and currently families are being surveyed to better understand the reasons for their choice

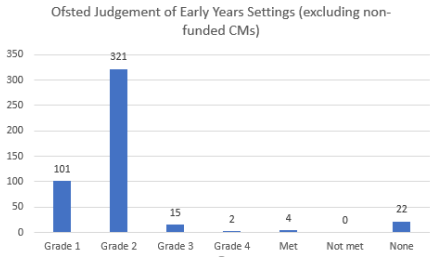
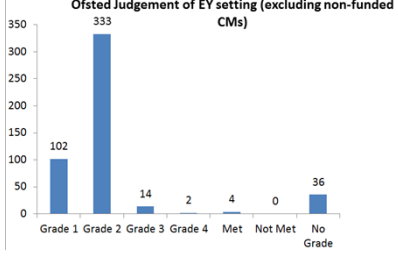






### **6. Variances:**


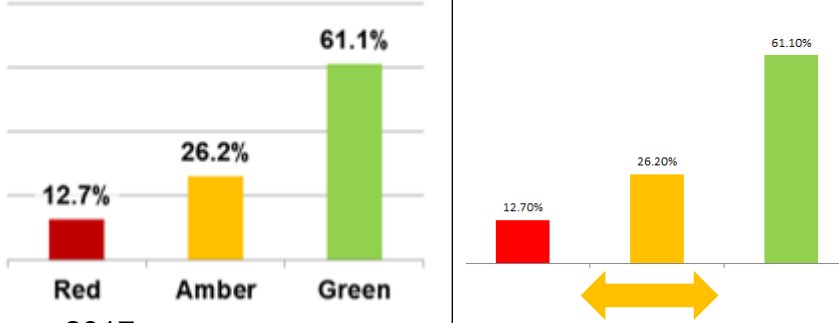




None identified









## 7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

That the SCT Board approves the action taken towards improvement to date and provides further challenge and support including any proposals for solutions where applicable

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of schools that are an academy/percentage of pupils that attend an academy		32.4% / 49% (May 17)	32.4% / 49% (Feb 17) 
Percentage of Primary schools that are academies/Percentage of pupils that attend a primary academy		24.7% / 28.7% (May 17)	24.7% / 28.7% (Feb 17) 
Percentage of Secondary schools that are academies/Percentage of pupils that attend a secondary academy		75% / 75.6% (May 17)	75% / 75.6% (Feb 17) 
Percentage of early years settings (including childminders) that are judged as good or outstanding		94.5% (June 17)	95.1% (Feb 17) 
LA risk analysis of early year's settings, including child minders		<p>Risk Analysis of EY settings supported</p>  <p> <span style="color: red;">■</span> Red    <span style="color: orange;">■</span> Amber  <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Yellow         </p>	<p>Risk Analysis of EY settings supported</p>  <p> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> yellow    <span style="color: orange;">■</span> Amber    <span style="color: red;">■</span> Red         </p>

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
		 <p>Ofsted Judgement of Early Years Settings (excluding non-funded CMs) July 2017</p>	 <p>Ofsted Judgement of EY setting (excluding non-funded CMs)</p>
Increase number of childcare settings to offer the Early Education Entitlement for 2-4 year olds to ensure that all eligible children are able to access quality education and childcare		100% (June 2017)	99.4% (Feb 17) 
Percent of 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from funded early education, in a good or outstanding provider	94.6% Stat neighbour average 2016/17	95% (2016/17 Jan census)	85% (2015/16 Jan 16 census) 
Percent of 2 year old children benefitting from funded early education in a good or outstanding provider	96.9% Stat neighbour average 2016/17	95% (2016/17 Jan census)	84% (2015/16 Jan census) 
Percentage of primary schools judged as good or outstanding	90.5% of primary schools in the South West	89.86% (June 17)	94.7% (Feb 17) 
Percentage of Secondary schools judged good or outstanding	80.2% of secondary schools in the South West	78.38% (29/37) June 2017	83.78% (31/37) May 2017 
Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding primary schools	90.3% in the South West	87.16% June 2017	90.77% March 2017 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding secondary schools	84.7% in the South West	82.08% June 2017	89.97% March 2017 
LA risk analysis of primary schools		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Primary Schools</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">June 2017</p>	
LA risk analysis of secondary schools		Awaiting re-assessment	
LA risk analysis of special schools		Awaiting re-assessment	
Persistent Absence rates in Primary Schools	7.63% Stat Neighbour average 2016	8.1% 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	9.8% 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 
Persistent Absence in Secondary schools	13.36% Stat Neighbour average 2016	14.5% 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	17% 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 
Percentage of 16-18 year old NEETs re-engaging in education, employment or training.		3.2% June 2017	0.27% March 2017 
Percentage of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks	52.07% Stat Neighbour average (excluding exceptions) 2016	54% YTD May 2017	57% YTD Feb 2017 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of PEPS that are current		88.13% 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	90.35% YTD March 2017 
Percentage of children at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at KS2	51.2% Stat Neighbour 2015/16	52% 2015/16	78%% 2014/15 <i>(achieving a level 4 in reading, writing and maths combined at KS2)</i> <i>Not comparable due to changes in the KS2 tests</i>
Percentage of CLA achieving at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at KS2	21.5% Stat Neighbour 2015/16	18% 2015/16	35% 2014/15 <i>(Achieving a level 4 in reading, writing and maths combined)</i> 
Percentage of disadvantaged learners (CLA and FSM) achieving at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in KS2	34% Stat Neighbour 2015/16	36% 2015/16	66% 2014/15 <i>(Achieving a level 4 in reading, writing and maths combined)</i> <i>Not comparable due to changes in the KS2 tests</i>
Percentage of children achieving 5 GCSEs A* to C grade including English and maths	58.03% Stat Neighbour 2015/16	55.8% 2015/16	58.6% 2014/15 
Percentage of CLA achieving 5 GCSEs A* to C grade	21.58% Stat Neighbour 2014/15	20% 2015/16	17.1% 2014/15 
Percentage of disadvantaged learners achieving 5 GCSEs A* to C grade including English and Maths	33.68% Stat Neighbour 2014/15	32% 2015/16	36% 2014/15 
<b>KEY</b>			
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 	




## CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

*This highlight report updates the Somerset Children's Trust Executive (SCT) about the project's progress to date. It also provides an opportunity to raise concerns and issues with the SCT, and alert them to any changes that may affect the project.*

*Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period.*

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>5 Providing help early and effectively</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Sue Rogers, Deputy Director, Education, SCC (Interim: Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Performance)	<b>Report Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	The majority of the action plan relates to new actions and embedding year 1 developments, neither of which can yet be evidenced by improved outcomes. However significant work is now underway on the proposed early help hubs, the adolescent strategy and young carers support.		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight Report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### Achievements:

- Implemented the Early Help Case Management System for getset services which was live at the beginning of April 2017 with initial training for all; additional specific training is in place until Dec 17. Wider deployment is now being considered for other services through development of business cases if appropriate
- Early Help Multi-Agency hubs – working title of Family Hubs with initial discussions with getset staff and Public Health nursing staff commenced; wider stakeholder engagement planned through Summer and Autumn 2017 and ongoing reports to the Early Help Board
- Family Outcomes Framework was agreed by Early Help Board; 45 Troubled Families claims in Qtr 1 (Year 2) bringing total to 274 claims
- Embedding Professional Choices as a tool to do the job – Summer roadshows and training is in place; new Professional Choices newsletters will be sent to all staff; there are 1720 registered users, 165 active Virtual Meeting Rooms, 8594 Early Help Assessment downloads and 1300 weekly hits on Professional Choices. One particular good example is the use of the VMR by the SEND panel which has revolutionised its delivery, saving time and significant paper usage of

approx. £750 per month

- Identify and support young carers – recommendations from Scrutiny Task and Finish Group now being acted upon; young carers identified and support/resources in place but more work is needed to widen the support;
- Multi agency sub group on Neglect now formed with strategy and conference planned in Autumn 2017.

**Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)**

- 

**3. Actions and outputs for the next period:**

- Engagement and consultation exercises to be launched in relation to the family hub model and its delivery in the context of wider community assets and approach. Reports will also be presented to Early Help Board, Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet
- Develop Adolescent Strategy –initial scoping undertaken within Somerset County Council; draft strategy and options paper now being produced
- Family Outcomes Framework – ongoing work with schools to improve Troubled Families caseload data sharing
- Increase joint working between schools and Early Help services to support needs of children with SEND – Early Help Board will have specific session in July to review Early Help activity in relation to SEND. In addition the reviewed and revised SEND panel organisation and decision making is now in place to improve joint decision making process along with the promotion of Early Help Assessments and request for regular Early Help Assessment data reports

**4. Most significant current risk/s:**

Development of the family hub model and the significant transformation programme required to deliver this

Developing a comprehensive and co-ordinate early help offer for children with SEND, following the Gloucestershire County Council peer review








**5. Most significant current issue/s:**


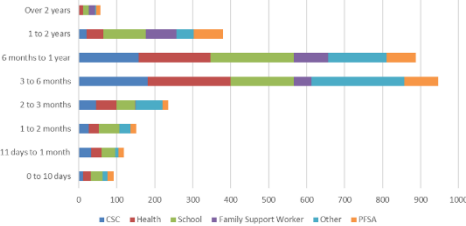



**6. Variances:**




None identified

**7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:**

That the Executive recognises the two main risk areas and provides challenge and support to ensure these are embraced by all partners to deliver

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
<b>1. Strengthen early help support for known vulnerable groups</b>			
% of Early Help workforce that feels confident in the identification of need for vulnerable groups		238 EHA Registered (March 2017)	190 EHA registered (February 2017) 
% of Early Help workforce that feel confident in assessing the risk of poor outcomes and therefore meeting the needs identified for vulnerable groups (where they are best placed to do so)		17.3% of Early Help contacts become referrals (June 2017)	15.9% of Early Help contacts became referrals (January 2017) 
<b>2. Improve quality and consistency of support for families</b>			
Inappropriate contacts to social care (No Further Action Contacts)		9.7% last 3 months ending 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	8.7% Feb 17 (taken on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 17) 
Re-referrals to social care (rate per 10,000 population)		97.39 rate per 10,000 rolling 12 months June 2017	95.89 rate per 10,000 rolling 12 months March 2017 
Calls to consultation helpline		225 Last 3 months ending June 2017	275 Last 3 months ending March 2017 
Number of Virtual Meeting Rooms set up increases each month (from Sept 16 onwards)		188 active in the week ending 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	112 active in the week ending 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 17 
Number of practitioners listed in the directory		1199 providers 88 services 211 info pages	1494 (incl. 229 information pages) November 16 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
Number of families achieving positive outcomes		The number of families successfully claimed for in the Troubled Families Programme is 274 (June 2017)	The number of families successfully claimed for in the Troubled Families Programme is 229 
Length of time of open cases <i>Length of Early Help Assessment episode.</i>		 <p>79.2% of episodes have been open for over 3 months</p>	56% of episodes have been open for over 3 months 
Percentage of re-referrals to social care	21.07% Stat Neighbour Average 2016	21.2% rolling 12 months June 2017	20.9% rolling 12 months Feb 17 
School attendance rates	96.01% Primary Stat neighbour 2016 94.71% Secondary Stat neighbour 2016	95.8% Primary attendance 94.3% Secondary attendance 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	95.1% Primary attendance 92.5% Secondary attendance 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017 
Overall number of EHAs received		(Intents to complete received) 647 (April, May, June 2017)	(Intents to complete received) 800 (Dec, Jan, Feb)
Number of EHA open episodes		2869 June 2017	1765 Feb 2017
Overall number of EHAs closed		923 rolling 12 months June 2017	499 rolling 12 months Feb 2017

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>KEY</b>			
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 	

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## CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

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*Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period.*

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>6 Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Children's Social Care / Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Claire Winter, Deputy Director Children and Families / Sally Halls, Independent Chair of the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board	<b>Report Date:</b>	19 July 2017

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	All areas are on target, with the exception of ensuring sufficiency of local care placements		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

#### **Achievements:**

This is the first report for the 2017/18 year and therefore provides a baseline, from which progress can be measured.

Key activity is focussed on:




- Increasing the stability of care placements
- Developing the market so that more Somerset children in care can live in Somerset placements
- Increasing the capacity of the Virtual school, to include post-16 support
- Continued recruitment and retention of frontline social workers

The SSCB pre-birth protocol and neglect strategy has been ratified by the SSCB and distributed to practitioners. The Missing protocol has been revised

#### **Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)**





None reported

<b>3. Actions and outputs for the next period:</b>
1) Review effectiveness of the out of hours services 2) Increased capacity in Virtual school for post-16 support
<b>4. Most significant current risk/s:</b>
That recruitment to permanent workforce is not sustained, resulting in the high locum workforce, turnover and reduced morale.  That the change in locum rules (IR35) reduces availability of locum staff, to a point where posts are unfilled and casework cannot be allocated.
<b>5. Most significant current issue/s:</b>
None reported
<b>6. Variances:</b>
None reported
<b>7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:</b>
That the Trust continues to ensure that Agencies prioritise the needs of Children Looked After and those in need of support and protection.

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>1. Developing a confident social work workforce</b>			
Number of Social Work workforce that are permanent		185.1 FTE / 197 Headcount May 2017	177.5 FTE/ 188 Headcount April 2017 
Percentage of agency workers within the current social work workforce	25%	30% May 2017	32.4% April 2017 
Average Caseloads		Average caseloads across all teams = 16.8 June 17	Average caseloads across all teams = 16.8 May 17 
<b>2. Delivering excellence in social work practice</b>			
Number of area based conferences run per quarter		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	




Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Audit of casework evidences improved and more consistent social work practice county wide		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
Percentage of staff observations completed each quarter (by each service area)		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
Annual supervision audit identifies impact of practice observation on professional development		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
Percent of case papers submitted to legal department which require no amendment		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
Percent of cases where social work recommendation is final court outcome		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
<b>3. Supporting families to care for their children</b>			
The percent of Family Group Conferences completed each quarter that result in children remaining safely in their family network		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
Percentage of children looked after who are aged 12 and above.		56.63% (286/505) 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Not previously reported
The percent of Early Help Assessments where effective change is the outcome increases for the 12 plus age group		In development. Available September 2017	
<b>4. Strengthen quality safeguarding across all agencies</b>			
Number of schools using Team Around the School approach increases		29 secondary schools and 103 Primary/First/Junior/Middle schools have access to the Team Around the School support.	Not previously reported



<b>Outcome measure/Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Current performance</b>	<b>Direction of travel</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percent of Early Help Assessment outcomes that are successful increases		365 EHAs during the last 12 months (ending June 17) where needs decreased June 2017	Not previously reported
Number of open Early Help Assessments where neglect is a factor		5.68% (163/2869) June 2017	5.7% (112/1959) March 2017
The percent of children who receive a return home interview	50%	67.4% YTD June 2017	45.4% YTD Feb 2017 
The percent of missing children interviewed within 72 hours of returning home		In Development	
Number and effectiveness of disruption activities		In Development – PMIT do not hold this data	
<b>5. Embed good corporate parenting</b>			
Reduction in Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) care leavers		39.4% (84/213) June 2017	42.5% (122287) March 2017 
Number of work experience opportunities taken up by care leavers		Awaiting ETE report	
Number of apprenticeships taken up by care leavers		Awaiting ETE report	
Percent of Somerset children looked after who are placed within Somerset	66.4% (15/16 SN average)	72.87% (368/505) 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	72.06% (356/494) 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 
Percent of children looked after placed more than 20 miles from home and outside Somerset geographically	15%	19.8% (99/499) June 2017	19.2% (91/474) March 2017 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Number of exhibitions		1 (June 17)	Not previously reported
Number of training sessions		1 (June 17)	Not previously reported
Number of training participants		29 (June 17)	Not previously reported
Number of roadshows		0 (June 17)	Not previously reported
Number of roadshow attendees		0 (June 17)	Not previously reported

#### 6. Achieving permanence for children in care and care leavers

Percent of children looked after that have been looked after for 4+ months where a permanence plan is recorded	95%	94.42% June 17	95.52% May 17 
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#### KEY

Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 
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## CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

*This highlight report updates the Somerset Children's Trust Executive (SCT) about the project's progress to date. It also provides an opportunity to raise concerns and issues with the SCT, and alert them to any changes that may affect the project.*

*Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period.*

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>7 Embedding a Think Family Approach across the Workforce</b>		
<b>Delivery Group:</b>	Workforce Board	<b>Year:</b>	2017/18
<b>Delivery Group Chair:</b>	Chris Squire, Director of HR, Somerset County Council	<b>Report Date:</b>	7/7/17

### 1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

<b>Current Status:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b> <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	Reliance on partners to engage. New elements added to the programme. Complexity of issues to be addressed. Aspirational nature of the outcomes.		

### 2. Progress since last Highlight Report

*Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children*

Achievements: First Think Family Workshop took place on 26/6/17 involving partners. Engagement was good and desire to move this forward was evident. Follow up internal session took place on 6/7/17. 4 task and finish groups set up Sept-Dec to keep the pace.

Slippage – working with partners is slow as agendas and priorities are not necessarily compatible even if the desire to succeed is.

### 3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

Follow up Think Family workshop – 4 task and finish group sessions planned Sept –Dec involving a range of agencies.

### 4. Most significant current risk/s:






Resource and capacity will have a significant impact on the pace of this programme.






### 5. Most significant current issue/s:

As above

### 6. Variances:

## 7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Recruit 30 Assisted & Supported Year in Employments (ASYE) to Fieldwork Teams in 2017/18	30	11	
Aim to provide 35-50 student placements at levels 2 and 3 in 2017/18.	Conversion of 60% of students to ASYE	50% in 2016/17 Of the current ASYE cohort 70% have had student placements in Somerset	
75% permanent workforce in 2017/18	75%	77%	
Average caseload of 14	14	15.9	
12% staff turnover target	12%	14.2%	
Vulnerable young people and families are more emotionally resilient and capable of resolving problems including being directly involved in helping themselves and encouraged to help others through volunteering or peer mentoring		In development	
Number of young carers of parents with mental health problems and drug and alcohol problems have access to advice and support and know how to		In development	

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Target	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
call for help when needed			
Troubled Families data warehouse identifies vulnerable families (Tableau) to ensure data sets align to identify vulnerable groups		9.20% (274 / 2,977) successful outcomes claimed for (June 2017)	8.11% (229 / 2,822) successful outcomes claimed for (March 2017) 
All professionals and staff who work with adults and children and young people understand the concept of 'think family' and are alert to the effects of adult behaviours on children and young people and know how to take action to respond appropriately	Think Family Strategy in place and implemented in phases	Strategy workshop on 26/6 Follow up on 6/7 Task and Finish Groups planned for Sept-Dec	
<b>KEY</b>			
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 	

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Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee  
– 28 July 2017

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## **Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) 2016-2019 Committee Member Champions**

Lead Officer: Philippa Granthier

Author: Jamie Jackson

Contact Details: (01823)359048

Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: ALL

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1.** Somerset County Council has developed a three year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) commencing April 2016 setting out the actions we and our partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children’s services. The plan follows a multi-agency approach, overseen by Somerset Children’s Trust. Seven improvement programmes, managed by the relevant Board for each improvement area are in place, as follows:
1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
  2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
  3. Embedding a ‘Think Family’ approach
  4. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
  5. Building skills for life
  6. Providing help early and effectively
  7. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children’s social work service.
- 1.2.** Children and families are a key theme within the County Plan 2016-20, recognising the importance of providing the information and advice families need to help themselves and of focusing our help early and effectively when needed. The key priorities are to improve children’s safeguarding services; to improve exam results, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils; and to improve children’s health and wellbeing.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The main focus of the Committee’s work programme will be to ensure the continuous improvement and delivery of the 7 priorities contained within the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). In this endeavour the Chairman, as in the last quadrennium, has suggested that each Member of the Committee volunteer to act as a ‘Champion’ for each of the 7 programmes.
- 2.2.** The Committee, recognising the importance of the CYPP in ensuring continued improvement in Children’s Services, is asked to ensure that each member of the Committee takes a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes of the CYPP. Appendix A lists the 7 programmes and the Member volunteers to date.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1.** On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by 1 April 2016 a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now being implemented and reporting to the Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 3.2.** The Committee also noted the focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) would be vulnerable children and young people and it this was used to inform the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP. The Committee recognises the cross cutting nature of the CYPP and its importance in ensuring holistic improvement in service delivery. Therefore having a Member champion for each improvement programme would help ensure Member engagement and knowledge and help the endeavour for continuous improvement.

### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1.** In drawing up the new CYPP, all those covered by the duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004 must be consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.
- 4.2.** Consultation undertaken included:
- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
  - The Unstoppables (SEND)
  - CAMHS Participation Group
  - Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
  - Young Healthwatch
  - Young Carers
  - Somerset Parent Carer Forum

The voice of children, young people and their families is being regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback. Further work is underway in Year 2 to widen the scope and to bring the voice into our quarterly reporting.

### **5. Implications**

- 5.1.** Financial: The CYPP has been implemented in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The priorities outlined in the plan are to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated reductions over the next three years.

Equality & Diversity: Somerset Children's Trust seeks to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people. This incorporates the need to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality Act's General Duty.

Legal: Local Children's Trust arrangements are underpinned by the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) and there are no plans to repeal this duty. The Children's Trust holds its individual members to account for delivering

their agreed contributions to the shared plan, and has agreed to review progress against the Plan on a six monthly basis.

The Direction Notice referred to in para 3.1 above was issued under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996.

## **6. Background papers**

### **6.1. The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019.**

**Note:** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.

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## Scrutiny for Policies, Children & Families Children and Young Peoples Plan Committee Champions

The Children & Families Scrutiny committee agreed that 7 Members of the Committee would each take a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes and focus their attention and consideration on performance in each report, feeding back and commenting on how progress was being made against their particular improvement programme.

The DCS replied that he thought this was a good suggestion and offered to provide Officer support for any Member of the Committee.

Members would not have lone responsibility for topic but would be initial point of contact and allow better understanding of area. Committee would retain overall responsibility for questioning/challenge.

### 1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr. <b>Nominated officer:- Philippa Granthier</b>
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### 2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr <b>Nominated officer:- Alison Bell</b>
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### 3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr <b>Nominated officer:- Deborah Howard</b>
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### 4. Building skills for life

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr <b>Nominated officer:- Dave Farrow</b>
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### 5. Providing help early and effectively

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr. Jane Lock <b>Nominated officer:- Sue Rogers</b>
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### 6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr. Leigh Redman <b>Nominated officer:- C Winter &amp; Sally Halls</b>
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### 7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

<b>Scrutiny member:</b>	Cllr. <b>Nominated officer:- Chris Squire</b>
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28 July 2018

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Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee  
28 July 2017

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## **Developing Family Hubs in Somerset**

Lead Officer: Director of Public Health & Director Children's Services

Author: Alison Bell & Philippa Granthier

Contact Details: [AZBell@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:AZBell@somerset.gov.uk) [PGranthier@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PGranthier@somerset.gov.uk)

Cabinet Member: Christine Lawrence, Public Health & Well-Being & Frances Nicholson, Children & Families

Division and Local Member: N/A

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1.** The creation of 'early help hubs,' which we have renamed Family Hubs as a working title, is set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-2019 which outlines the vision for improving outcomes and services for children and their families in Somerset.

The CYPP was approved by Cabinet and endorsed by Full Council in May 2016, and was a directive from the Department for Education as part of Somerset County Council's Children' Services Improvement Programme.

One of the key priorities from the CYPP is to "establish early help hubs in local communities offering multi-agency integrated services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly".

Phase 1 of the creation of a Family Hubs service across Somerset is to establish joint working across Universal Health & Well-being services for children and young people (Health Visiting –children aged 0-5 years- and School Nurses – 5-19years) which are commissioned by Somerset County Council, and Somerset Early Help services for children and young people branded as 'getset' and provided by Somerset County Council (including children's centre services and family support /troubled family support services.)

- 1.2.** The development of the family hub approach supports the following plans:

Health & Well-Being (HWB) strategy – These services both contribute to the shared vision of the HWB which is that

*"People live healthy and independent lives, supported by thriving and connected communities with timely and easy access to high-quality and efficient public services when they need them."*

County Plan - part of the vision being to reduce inequalities wherever we can across the county and empower people to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the future vision and model of 'family hubs' and specifically the service for targeted early help and Universal health and well-being services for children and families in Somerset, as articulated in the Somerset Children & Young People's Plan

(2016-2019)

- 2.2. Provide an early opportunity for the members of Somerset Children & Families Scrutiny Committee to engage with this programme and provide feedback on an ongoing basis over the lifetime of the programme.

### 3. Background

#### 3.1. National Context

Nationally there have been recent publications advocating a move to family hubs, and many local authorities have been considering refining their early help and children's centre offer to one that is integrated, co-ordinated and flexible with a range of partner services involved across children's and adult services.

Key policy reports of recent years, such as the Graham Allen review of Early Intervention, Eileen Munro's reports on child protection, and the Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) Green Paper (DfE, 2011) have all made the case for a holistic, integrated service for children and young people.

The Family Hub model was initially proposed in 2014 by the Centre for Social Justice to provide a more integrated, preventative approach to supporting the country's most vulnerable families; offering *local nerve centres co-ordinating all family-related support including universal services and specialist help...to meet both parents' most pressing needs*.

Qualitative studies by the EIF<sup>1</sup>, show a range of positive effects reported by professionals involved in integrated services:

#### **Positive effects of integrated services**

##### **Processes**

- Increased understanding, trust and cooperation between different services.
- Better communication and consistent implementation of services.
- Less duplication of processes across agencies.

##### **Outputs**

- More responsive and appropriate services.
- Better access to services or increased user involvement.
- More cost-effective.

##### **Outcomes for children and families**

- Improved cognitive or school performance.
- Improved general physical health.
- Enhanced social behaviour.
- Improved parenting or family relations

The following two national papers help to detail the vision around Family Hubs

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<sup>1</sup> Getting it Right For Families: A review of the integrated systems and promising practice in the early years. *Early Intervention Foundation (2014)*



- All Party parliamentary Group on Children’s Centres – Family Hubs: The Future of Children’s Centres (July 2016)  
[http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw\\_82938-8.pdf](http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_82938-8.pdf)
- Children’s Commissioner – Family Hubs A discussion paper – Co-ordinated local support and intervention for children in need and their families (October 2016)  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/family-hubs-a-discussion-paper/>

### **3.2 Public Health Nursing**

Public Health Nursing (0-19 years) in Somerset is delivered by an external provider. Following enactment of the Health & Social Care Act on 1st April 2013 the Director of Public Health (DPH) became responsible for the commissioning of the School Nursing Service (the 5-19 year old service). Funding for this service is contained within the annual Somerset Public Health budget. Somerset Public Health is an associate commissioner to the CCG with this provider, for the School Nursing service.

From October 2015, SCC became responsible for the commissioning of the Health Visiting Service (the 0-5 year old service.) A service specification has been developed in collaboration with NHS England (the previous commissioner), the strategic commissioner of getset service and the Director of Children Services. The resource envelope for Health Visiting 2015/16 has now also been included as part of the ring fenced public health grant, which has been extended for a further year to April 2019.

In November 2015 the Department of Health announced cuts to the PH grant, therefore funding will need to be removed from PHN contract as follows: £0.5million 2018/19 and £0.5million 2019/20. This funding will be removed from the local public health grant and therefore is not a local MTFP saving.

PHE was commissioned by the DoH to undertake a review of the mandation of Health Visiting services; this was published on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and extended the mandation of HV services and the 5 universal contacts by HV. This review was originally due to be 12 months post transfer but was delayed. The current provider’s Children and Family Services (including HV and SN) were rated as good by the CQC in September 2016.

### **3.3 The Current getset Early Help Services and the Troubled Families programme**

Getset services were established in 2014 encompassing children’s centre services (universal and targeted support for 0-4 year olds) and family support work for families with children aged 0-19 years. The service is countywide and delivered in family homes, community buildings and in children’s centre buildings.

The service supports the national DCLG troubled families programme which aims for key partners for example, councils, health, education, DWP, police, youth offending service etc. to work together to identify and support the most complex and chaotic families that tend to draw on a vast array of services. Historically

services have worked in isolation and focused primarily on the member of the family requiring a service i.e. a child or an adult, whereas the programme advocates a key worker approach who co-ordinates appropriate support for the entire family, understanding the impact of parental issues on children and vice versa.

The service is funded by council core budget of £4.2m (16/17) which has been significantly reduced over a period of years, instead utilising the funding associated with the troubled families grant. It is critical financially that the council now focuses on the key aspects of delivering an integrated early help offer with partners, which can reduce costs associated with management, administration, buildings and other overheads so that front-line staffing costs are protected wherever possible. In addition the service is already looking at skills mix, providing apprenticeships, work placements for student social workers and recruiting volunteers where appropriate.

### **3.4 The Vision and proposed model for Family Hubs**

**Vision** - Somerset County Council has a vision to create ‘an integrated universal health and targeted early intervention service that provides an holistic response to the needs of children and their families: where needs are met as early as possible by highly skilled professionals’

**Model** - The proposal is for a locality based early help and universal health and well-being integrated team for children and young people aged 0-25 years. The teams will be made up of a multi-disciplinary core team with links to other members of the multiagency team ‘wrapped around’ each core team. The service will deliver evidence-based interventions and will be measured on the impact of its outcomes. This will provide support to children and families across all tiers, from universal up to tier 4 child protection.

The CYPP 2016-2019 articulates the wider multiagency partnership agreement to *‘Establish early help hubs in local communities offering multi-agency integrated services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly and effectively.’*

### **3.5 The aims and timeline for delivery**

The aims of the service redesign to deliver family hubs are:

- To improve outcomes for children in Somerset
- To achieve longer term benefits of a more effective early help service that helps prevent children requiring more intensive, high cost support
- Provide consistent, joined-up service for families , which tackle health and social inequalities

An additional aim of Phase 1 of the project will be to make the necessary savings for Department of Health budget cuts, by skill mixing the HV workforce

Staff from PHN and getset are engaged in discussions to consider current issues and what a new joint working model would look like and what it would achieve. It

is vital that staff are engaged in this process as there are areas of good practice, such as the Healthy Child Meetings and some excellent innovations, such as the young parent programme and health and well-being clinics in secondary schools. However, we need to capitalise on this good practice and ensure this influences the delivery of a service model across Somerset. The staff are key to this. Staff across both services were overwhelmingly positive about the opportunity that this presented and the fact that they were involved in this process and their experience being used to shape future service delivery.

It is also vital that we hear the voices of our service users and wider population, as they will have views regarding how the service is delivered and what has worked well and what could be improved. A full stakeholder engagement will be undertaken over the summer / autumn 2017. The results of this will help to formalise the final proposals which will be further scrutinised through partner arrangements of the Somerset Children's Trust and the appropriate Scrutiny Committees before being presented to cabinet for final decision in late 2017.

Critically the family hubs in Somerset will need to build and maintain strong links with other parts of the health and well-being partnership, specifically maternity, GPs, secondary care, early year's settings, schools, colleges and local voluntary and community groups. Our local maternity providers are early implementers of the better births national initiative which provides opportunities around linking with a more joined up maternity service, which will see the introduction of one maternity record across Somerset. Engagement with these partners will be factored into service development.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1.** We are in the initial stages of developing a model of service for family hubs. Phase 1 of this programme of change will encompass the getset (early help and children's centres) service and health visiting and school nursing. It is hoped that in future other services, across sectors, could be linked either virtually or physically with these hubs, to create a strong link with local communities

Initial workshops have been held with staff groups (Including health visitors, schools nurses and their assistant practitioners and getset) and have been met generally with great positivity and desire to work more closely. Staff have been able to volunteer to support the workstreams in driving forward the detailed work that will be required.

A full stakeholder engagement will be undertaken over the summer / autumn 2017, with the aim of informing decision making around the service model and delivery options including family homes, community buildings and the wider public estate including libraries and children's centres.

Consultation with elected members and the relevant Scrutiny Committee will occur on an ongoing basis, to ensure we collectively agree and work to achieve this vision and improve health and well-being outcomes for children, young people and families and tackle the health and social inequalities some of our most vulnerable children experience.

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# Family Support Service

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Public Health Consultant  
Somerset County Council



[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)



# Family Support Service – the vision

## Our Vision

Is that Somerset children and young people are safe, healthy, happy, are ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

## Somerset CYPP 2016-19 – Top Priority

Establish early help hubs in local communities offering multi-agency integrated services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly and effectively

Family hubs are..... *‘The ‘go to’ place for any parent (including fathers) to access services or information about all family-related matters including: birth registration, antenatal and postnatal services, information on childcare, employment and debt advice, substance misuse services, relationship and parenting support, local activities for families and support for families separating.’*

From: All Party Parliamentary Group on Children’s Centres – Family Hubs: The Future of Children’s Centres  
– Strengthening family relationships to improve Life Chances for everyone [WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)

(July 2016)



# Why change?

- **Improve outcomes for Somerset's children, young people and families**
- **Strategic direction**
- **National best practice**
- **Efficiencies and cost savings**



# What do we want to achieve

## Processes

- Increased understanding, trust and cooperation between different services.
- Better communication and consistent implementation of services.
- Less duplication of processes across agencies.

## Outputs

- More responsive and appropriate services.
- Better access to services or increased user involvement.
- More cost-effective.

## Outcomes for children and families

- Improved cognitive or school performance.
- Improved general physical health.
- Enhanced social behaviour.
- Improved parenting or family relations



*From: Getting it right for families – Early Intervention Foundation*



# The Proposed Model

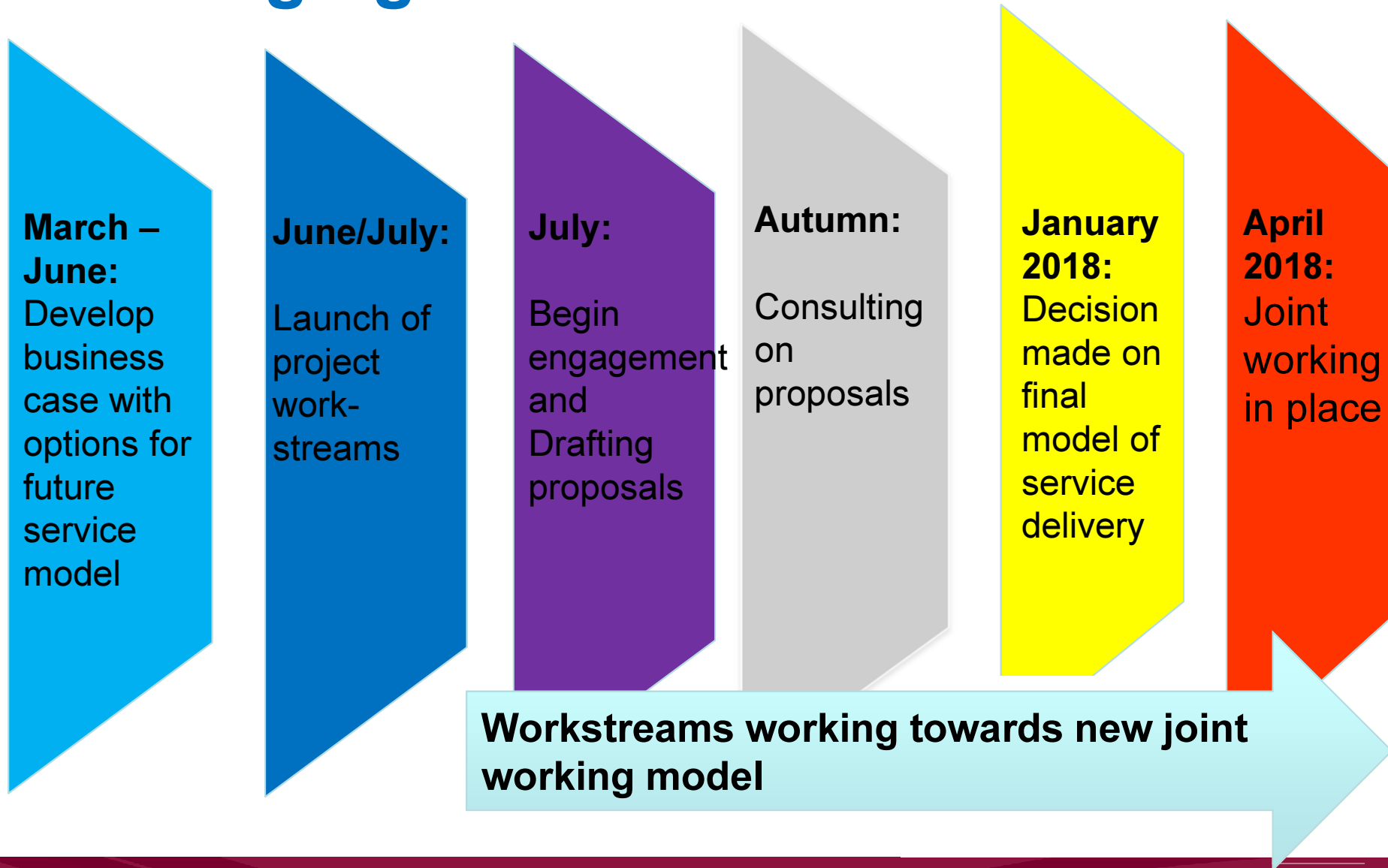
Is for an integrated universal health and targeted early help service that provides an holistic response to the needs of children and families; needs are met as early as possible by highly skilled professionals. The number of children and families with high levels of need is reduced and our residents, children and young people, are given every opportunity to be successful.

Phase 1 will be to integrate getset services (universal children's centre offer, 0-5 years and level 2 and 3 family support services 0-19 years) with public health nursing services (health visitors 0-5 years and school nurses 5-19 years) to form a multi-disciplinary core team. Teams will be locally based providing early help and universal health and wellbeing services for children and young people aged 0-19 years.

[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)



# Emerging timeline



# Engagement with staff

- Initial workshops have been held with staff groups
  - During March and July
  - Latest round of sessions, Approx. 130 staff from getset, Health visitors and School Nursing
  - Positive feedback and desire to work together
- Staff have been able to volunteer to support the workstreams in driving forward the detailed work that will be required
  - Systems and Processes
  - Workforce
  - Resources
  - Comms and Engagement

# Questions



Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee  
12.07.17

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## **Foster Carer's Fees and Allowances**

Lead Officer: Becky Hopkins – Strategic Manager Child Placements and Resources

Author: Becky Hopkins

Contact Details: 01823 357839

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The introduction of a Progression Scheme as part of Somerset's offer to foster carers was approved by Cabinet in June 2014. The aim of the scheme was to ensure that children are cared for by people with the right skills and experience and that foster carers are recognised for the skills and experience they bring to the role (refer to attached Foster Carer's Progression Scheme). At this time Somerset was one of the few local authorities who did not have such a scheme and therefore this enabled the service to align and put itself in a more competitive position regarding the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

The introduction of the scheme was seen as a very positive move forward and performance in relation to the recruitment of foster carers in 2014/15 and 2015/16 showed a significant improvement compared to previous years. However 2016/17 saw the lowest number of new approvals over a five year period and an overall net loss of foster carers. Analysis of why foster carers have left the service does not suggest that this is for negative reasons. The reasons for deregistration are various and for a number of carers this is because permanence has been secured for the children placed with them. The other main reason is because the population of foster carers in Somerset is ageing and therefore the other main reasons for deregistration are retirement, ill health or family commitments.

Foster carers report that the needs of the children they care for are increasingly complex. Alongside this, and rightly so, the aspirations for children in care and the expectations about the services available to them have increased. Foster carers are a key vehicle to support change as they provide 24/7 care and contribute to assessment, planning and the provision of stability and security for children. Foster carers need to understand, adapt to and meet the often complex needs of children in care.

In view of the information above a review of the support offer available to foster carers has been undertaken over the last 3 months.

The aim of the review was to develop the current offer to support the following:

- Improved recruitment performance resulting in an increase in the number of in house foster carers;
- An increase in the choice and range of high quality placements offering permanency;
- Improved matching of carers abilities and skills with children's assessed needs;
- Increased fairness and consistency across all support elements;
- A fostering offer which is transparent and easy to understand.

This review links directly with Programme 6 of the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 – Achieving Permanence for Children in Care and Care Leavers and the Sufficiency Statement Action Plan 2017/18. The shortage of foster carers both nationally and locally is well recognised and the need to increase numbers of foster carers able to meet the needs of Somerset children is a priority and is a corporate responsibility (refer to attached Fostering Recruitment Update to Scrutiny June 2017 for details of recruitment activity and performance).

## **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The Committee is being asked to consider and comment on these proposed changes before the Cabinet meeting on 16 August 2017 when they will be recommended for approval. The changes have the aim of re-aligning and ensuring that Somerset's offer to foster carers is competitive and attractive and taking into account feedback from foster carers, achieves greater equity, simplicity and transparency.

The cost of this proposal is calculated to be £226,200 per annum. This calculation is based on the number of current carers, the payment level they were on during the first 2 weeks of July 2017 and the number of children in each placement.

The cost of the proposal is significant, however this would relate to the cost difference between 11 children placed internally rather externally or the avoidance of 1 child being placed in residential provision for 1 year. There is no annual increase proposed to fostering allowances in 2017/18.

In addition to the changes detailed in the revised progression scheme document, the service is also working with HR to review and reignite the Fostering Friendly Employer Policy and to include foster carers in the My Staff Shop Offer. The foster carers training programme has also been reviewed and revised.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1.** As reported to Scrutiny Committee in June 2017, there is a shortage of foster care placements both nationally and locally and this is set against an increase in the number of children in care. Whilst the number of children in care in Somerset has remained static over the last 12-18 months, overall there has been a significant increase in the last 5 years.

As noted in Section 1, recruitment performance in recent years has compared favourably to the performance of other local authorities in the South West, however, 2016/17 saw the lowest number of new approvals over a five year period and an overall net loss of foster carers

Whilst recruitment is challenging, recent comparative analysis suggests that the fostering market is not saturated and that there are still families in Somerset who can be targeted to foster. Recruitment activity targeted at specific areas of the county where numbers of approved foster carers as a % of the population are low is on-going.

The Progression Scheme was due for review given that it is 3 years since implementation. The plan to review was supported by the Placements Review which took place in November 2016. The Placements Review undertook a comparison exercise on the offer to foster carers made by other local authorities. Whilst a direct comparison is not possible due to the wide variety of structural and payment arrangements, this has been revisited as part of this review to ensure a realistic yet competitive offer is proposed.

The existing scheme is attached for reference and for comparison with the proposed revised version which is also attached. The significant changes/points are:

- The annual cost of implementation will be £226, 200.
- The progression levels are reduced from 4 to 3 and the Home Based Care Scheme is merged with the Mainstream Plus level.
- Requirements for each level have been revised to ensure child focus and clarity of expectations.
- Alignment of benefits for all foster carers such as holiday and respite entitlement and sickness payments.
- The introduction of a uniform allowance at significant transition points.
- Flexible arrangements for holiday payments to enable foster carers to book holidays for children in advance.
- The removal of the emergency fostering scheme and the inclusion of this as an expectation for Mainstream Plus foster carers who have a vacancy.

### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1.** All foster carers were invited to join a consultation.

Consultation meetings were held with a group of 10-15 foster carers from across the different fostering schemes on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017. A meeting was held with Home Based Carers on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## **5. Implications**

**5.1.** The implications of not having a support offer which is competitive and meets the needs of Somerset foster carers are:

- The needs of children in Somerset cannot be adequately met locally. Without enough foster carers locally there is an increased risk that children will need to be placed further away from their families, schools and local communities. There is also an increased risk that children may be placed in residential provision where this is not their assessed need.
- Opportunities to recruit new foster carers in what is a challenging climate cannot be maximised. Changes in the economic climate and culture means that it is more difficult for families with the skills and experience required for fostering to consider this. Economic necessity may mean all adults in a family need an income; adult children remain at home longer; families may have less physical space.
- People considering fostering may make a decision to foster for a neighbouring local authority or for an independent agency.
- Foster carers do not feel valued as part of the professional team around the child and do not have an opportunity to progress and develop. As result of this foster carers may experience low morale, become disenchanted with the service and may decide to leave the service.

## **6. Background papers**

Proposed revised Foster Carer's Progression Scheme June 2017

Fostering Recruitment Update to Scrutiny June 2017



## Revised Foster Carer's Progression Scheme June 2017

The Foster Carer's Progression Scheme enables Somerset to recruit and retain high quality foster carers to ensure that children and young people are looked after by foster carers who have the experience, skills and training necessary to meet their needs. It aims to ensure that children are placed with carers whose experiences and competencies meet those needs. The scheme recognises carer's skills, experience and professional learning and development. The scheme also provides a simple and equitable structure for making fee payments to foster carers.

This document details the payment levels linked to the progression levels and the specific tasks that are expected of the foster carer and how foster carers achieve progression.

### Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011 – Child-Focussed Standards
- Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (amended)
- Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Carers
- Somerset County Council's Foster Carer's Handbook and Foster Carer's Agreement
- Somerset County Council's Training Programme for Foster Carers.

## Key Principles

- To recognise and reward carers for their skills and experience, ensuring that they are valued;
- To ensure that there are placements available to meet the specific needs of the children coming into care including increasing the number of carers able to offer placements to sibling groups and children with more complex needs.
- To be clear about our expectations of carers and the tasks they undertake;
- To provide carers with the training and learning opportunities to help them develop their skills and set out clear expectations in relation to this.

## Progressing through the Levels

One of the scheme's central principles is that the skills, experience and training of foster carers are recognised and properly regarded.

Approval at the different levels will depend on:

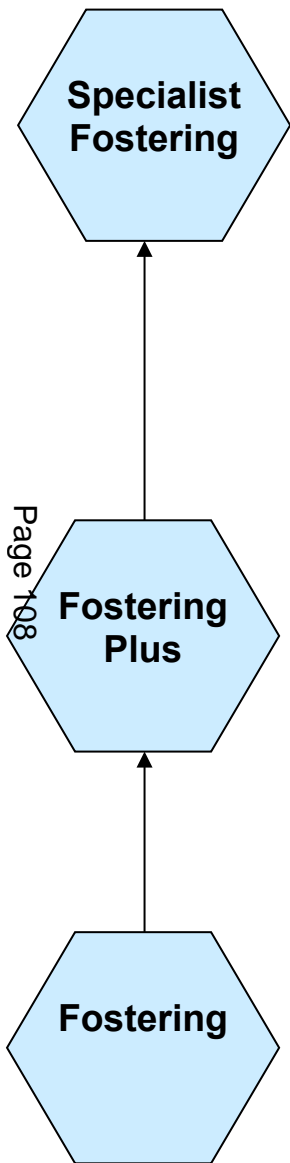
- The carer's assessed core skills at the time of approval and at each review;
- The carer's ability and willingness to undertake the agreed tasks.
- The length of experience as an approved carer;

- The training that has been undertaken.

A carer will receive a payment linked to their level of approval whenever a child or young person is placed with them.

The scheme provides a clear "career pathway" for foster carers to progress if they wish to do so. Supporting carers to develop their knowledge and skills to progress should be an integral part of their supervision. The carer's annual review is the meeting where progression should be considered and recommended where appropriate. Progression is not guaranteed and a recommendation to progress can only be made if there is sufficient evidence that the requirements have been met. Recommendation to progress must be presented to Fostering Panel and ratified by the Agency Decision Maker.

It will be possible for carers to move down levels as well as up. If a carer wishes to retain their current level and has been unable to demonstrate certain competencies, an action plan will be agreed between the carer, their Supervising Social Worker and Team Manager and reviewed within 6 months. This will be referred to the Operations Manager to agree.



### **Specialist Fostering**

Treatment Foster Carer (TFC): £375  
Family Assessment and Support Team (FA&ST) Parent and Child Fostering: £375  
Single Placement Scheme and complex medical needs: £375

Allowances for children and adults in placement are paid in addition to the fees.

### **Fostering Plus** (Waiting to be costed)

Allowance plus fee per child  
\*£175 fee – 1<sup>st</sup> child in placement  
£225 fee – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> child in placement

\*If there is a need for a carer to be home based a fee of £225 will be paid.

### **Fostering**

Allowance plus fee per child  
£75 fee – 1<sup>st</sup> child in placement  
£100 fee – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> child in placement

## Fostering

Fostering includes all newly approved carers and those carers who do not wish to progress beyond this level.

Carers can choose to be available on the Emergency Duty Team vacancy list and will receive a £50 payment if a placement is made.

Connected persons foster carers who look after a child related or known to them will usually remain at the Fostering level unless they expand their fostering remit to include other children looked after. Connected persons foster carers will only receive the fostering fee upon full approval at Fostering Panel. During their period of temporary approval they will receive the age related allowance for the child only.

It is recognised that newly approved carers may be developing their ability to practice the whole range of skills identified below.

## Skills required for all those approved as foster carers for Somerset County Council

All foster carers are expected to meet the Child-Focussed National Minimum Standards for children.

## Child Focussed

- An ability to provide a standard of care for other people's children which promotes their safety and welfare and protects them from abuse and other forms of significant harm.
- An ability to promote and support children's emotional and social development and to enable children to develop emotional resilience and positive self-esteem.
- An ability to provide a home which can comfortably accommodate all who live there to a suitable standard and where the child enjoys access to a range of activities which promotes their development.
- An ability to work closely with children's families, and others who are important to the child, in a respectful and supportive manner.
- An ability to provide an environment and culture which promotes, models and supports positive behaviour.
- An ability to listen and communicate with children appropriate to their age and understanding and communicate effectively with other professionals.
- An ability to support and encourage children to maintain family contact and friendships in accordance with their care plan.
- An ability to interact and engage with children using play.
- An ability to advocate on behalf of children.
- An understanding of the importance of education and an ability to act as a positive advocate promoting the child's education both inside and outside the home. This includes working closely with schools, attending parent's evenings and attending Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings.

- An ability to develop positive strategies for supporting children where they encounter discrimination or bullying wherever this occurs.
- An ability to support permanence planning for the child informed by observations and positively contribute to their life story and the work associated with this.
- A commitment and ability to support a child's cultural and identity needs.
- The commitment to work as part of the team around the child or young person and contribute to the department's planning for the child/young person.
- Maintains records as required when a child is in placement and contribute to written reports for a child's review and attend review meetings.
- Produce a child-friendly profile about their household for children coming into placement.
- At the end of a placement provide a letter to the child summarising their time with them and highlighting positive memories.
- Foster carers will normally be expected to give notice if a placement needs to end to avoid unplanned moves. The notice period is 28 days. Prior to reaching this stage it is an expectation that placement support meetings are held to ensure that appropriate support is offered to the child and carers to maintain the placement where possible and appropriate. Any decision to move a child should be based on the child's needs. If a placement needs to end we would want to work with and support the foster carer to continue to care for the child until a planned move can be made.
- Offer up to 100 miles per week transport where required unless there are exceptional reasons why this is not possible, for example the carer does not drive, conflicting needs within the placement. Carers will continue to

claim mileage for this transport which is specific to and only for the fostered child's identified needs outside of normal family activity.

## Own Development

- Demonstrate the commitment to utilise training and development opportunities and to improve skills as agreed in the individual Personal Development Plan.
- Complete the Training, Support & Development standards during their first year of approval whether they wish to progress through or not. This applies to all approved carers in the household.
- Successfully complete specified core training during the first year of approval:
  - First Aid;
  - Introduction to Child Protection;
  - Equality and Diversity;
  - Safer Care;
  - Introduction to Attachment.

Where two partners foster as a couple, one carer in the household must have completed all of the core training and the other must have completed First Aid, Safer Care and Introduction to Child Protection training as a minimum. For the second carer the child protection training could be an e-learning course. Both partners must also have undertaken



any training specified at the point of approval or subsequently through supervision or annual review by the supervising social worker.

## **Fostering Plus**

To progress to this level carers must have a minimum of two years of experience and to have had their previous two reviews positively appraised by Fostering Panel and agreed by the agency decision-maker or by the Operations Manager – Child Placements & Resources. All of the requirements for Fostering continue to apply to Fostering Plus carers.

Carers are expected to be part of the Emergency Duty Team carer availability list if they have a vacancy and will receive a £50 payment if a placement is made.

The fee paid at this level recognises that there may be a need for a carer to be home based.

## **Short Break Care**

Short Break carers care for children with a range of disabilities. Most Short Break carers will meet the requirements of Fostering Plus through the skills and experience that they have for this specific fostering task. Short Break carers are paid a proportionate allowance and fee on the days they foster children.

## Child Focussed

- Demonstrate an ability to work closely with other professionals in carrying out individual therapeutic programmes, skills development, behaviour modification or educational programmes with children with appropriate supervision and consultation.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of how poor attachments affect children's development and care for the child in a way that reflects this.
- Demonstrate skills in caring for sibling groups for example, managing competing needs, the different experiences children may have had despite being from the same family and their different responses.
- Demonstrate an ability to care for our most vulnerable children with more complex behaviours which contribute to professional assessments including court reports.

## Own Development

- Completed the Diploma in childcare or other relevant professional qualifications in working with children and young people e.g. social work, child care, teaching, youth and community work, probation or nursing. Alternatively they must complete a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their ability to meet the competencies required. This evidence could come from sources such as outcomes for children they have cared for, examples of multi-agency work they have done, annual review paperwork, testimonies and reports from children and professionals they have worked with, etc).

- Undertake a minimum of 6 relevant days training per year (main carer) with the second carer undertaking the equivalent of 2 days training.
- Demonstrate that they regularly access and contribute to the support network for foster carers.
- Demonstrate a willingness to be involved in staff and foster carer recruitment activity including road shows and information sessions, training and mentoring less experienced carers.
- Maintain fostering practice at this level evidenced via positive annual reviews.

## **Specialist Fostering**

Carers who foster for one of the specialist schemes will be assessed and approved to meet the requirements of that scheme. Carers are expected to develop and maintain the specific skills required for their scheme in addition to demonstrating the skills required for Fostering and Fostering Plus.

All carers on these schemes are required to be home based.

## **Family Assessment and Support Team (FA&ST) (Parent and child fostering)**

Foster carers on this scheme are able to provide a placement for parents and their young child. The role is one of support, advice, role modelling and assessment in close liaison with the child's social worker and

their own supervising social worker. The foster carers may be expected to provide round the clock supervision and provide and present assessment information for the court. The observations made by parent and child foster carers will inform care planning decisions about whether a child may remain in the care of their birth parents.

## **Treatment Foster Care**

Foster carers on this scheme are able to provide single placements to a child aged 3-12 within a therapeutic approach directed by the Programme Supervisor. Children placed on this programme will have complex and challenging behaviours and may have experienced several placement breakdowns. The scheme requires the foster carer to be available for a number of meetings and interventions each week.

## **Single Placement**

Foster carers on this scheme are able to provide single placements to children aged 10 or over. Children requiring placements on this scheme will have high level behavioural, learning, emotional and mental health needs. They are likely to be on the edge of requiring residential provision and will require a high level of support and supervision. They may have drug and alcohol issues, go missing regularly and be at risk of child sexual exploitation.

## Children with Complex Medical Needs

These carers will foster children with complex medical needs who require nursing care and meet the criteria threshold for continuing health care.

## Child Focussed

- At least one carer in the household must not ordinarily have any other paid/unpaid employment, and must be available for the care of the child if they are not in school.
- An ability to provide accurate records of their observations which contribute to assessment and planning for children.

## Own Development

- Be active in developing and maintaining their skills through training and, where appropriate, will be willing to take on other activities such as supervising contact for children placed with other foster carers, support work, running support groups and helping with the training of new or other carers.
- Attend all carer meetings required by the scheme unless absence is agreed with the Team Manager.
- Undertake a minimum of 6 days relevant training per year (main carer) with the second carer undertaking the equivalent of 2 days training and any additional training required by the scheme.

- Provide evidence of the ability to work with individual therapeutic programme plans with other professionals for the benefit of children in their care.

## Holidays

### **Fostering, Fostering Plus, Single Placements and Children with Complex Medical Needs**

Foster Carers are expected to care for a child as a member of their family and include the child in family holidays. Planned and agreed additional breaks from fostering which meet the child's needs can be agreed for up to 21 days per year. During these periods the fee is paid but not the allowance for the child.

### **FA&ST and Treatment Foster Care**

Up to six weeks break per year are available between placements. During this period only the fee is paid.

## Significant illness or injury

If the child (or parent & child for FA&ST placements) cannot be cared for by the carers due to significant illness or injury the fee can be paid for up to 28 days. This will be subject to regular review. Allowances for the child are not paid during this time.

## Complaints/Allegations

If a child is placed elsewhere whilst an investigation is carried out, carers will continue to receive the fee but not the allowance for the child until the investigation is concluded.

## Summer Holiday Allowances

Carers should have the opportunity to request the child's summer allowance in full from 1<sup>st</sup> January each year in order to book a holiday that they are taking a child on in advance. If the child does not go on the holiday the payment will be reclaimed.

## School Uniform

There are payments of £50 when a child starts primary school and £100 for transition to secondary school. If a child is received into care with inadequate uniform these additional payments may also apply.

It is an expectation that a child moving placement has appropriate uniform to take with them.

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